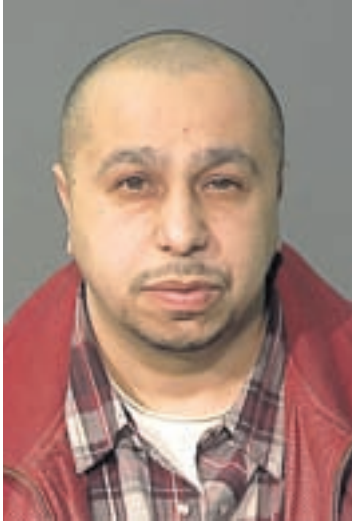


ARREST MADE IN NYC CRASH



Julio Acevedo

(AP Photo)

COLLEEN LON

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A man wanted for a hit-and-run crash in New York City that killed a pregnant woman and her husband was arrested Wednesday, authorities said.

New York City police said they arrested the suspected driver Julio Acevedo at a mini-mart in Pennsylvania.

Acevedo allegedly was speeding down a Brooklyn street in a BMW at 60 mph (96 kph) early Sunday when he collided with a car carrying Nachman and Raizy Glauber, both 21. They died Sunday. Their baby boy was delivered prematurely but died a day later.

It was not immediately known if the 44-year-old Acevedo had a lawyer.

Acevedo was arrested last month on a charge of driving while under the influence, and that case is pending. He served about a decade in prison in the 1990s for manslaughter.

No one answered the door at Acevedo's last known address, in a public housing complex in Brooklyn. Neighbors said his mother lived in the same building, but she did not answer her door. □

"Snowquester" Spares Capital



Rebecca Blackwell walks to work along Jefferson Park Avenue Wednesday March 6, 2013 in Charlottesville, Va., as a snow hits the area. A winter storm piled on snow in central and western portions of the state, causing thousands to lose power.

(AP Photo/Sabrina Schaeffer)

Storm slams Mid-Atlantic; 250K lose power

ERIC TUCKER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A

winter storm marched into the Mid-Atlantic region Wednesday, dumping nearly two feet of snow in some places and knocking out power to about 250,000 homes and businesses. It largely spared the nation's capital, which was expecting much worse and had all but shut down.

Washington officials didn't want a repeat of 2011, when a rush-hour snowstorm stranded commuters for hours, so they told people to stay off the roads and gave workers the day off. Dubbed the "snowquester," the storm closed government offices, just

as the automatic budget cuts known as the sequester were expected to do. The storm pummeled the nation's midsection on Tuesday, killing at least four people in weather-related traffic accidents. It was forecast to head to the northeast on Thursday, bringing strong winds, more snow and the possibility of coastal flooding to New England. In Washington, where as much as 10 inches were forecast, the storm did little but drop harmless snowflakes that rapidly melted amid warmer-than-expected temperatures.

"They just say that it might snow and the whole city shuts down," said Sheri Sable, who was out walk-

ing her two dogs in light rain and marveled at how even the dog park she frequents failed to open at 7 a.m.

There were problems elsewhere in the region, though. Lashing winds blew off part of the roof of a Stone Harbor, N.J., condominium complex and Ocean City officials advised residents to move their cars to higher ground in preparation of possible flooding. Maryland's Bay Bridge, which connects Maryland's Eastern shore with the Baltimore-Washington region, closed in both directions, because of wind gusts of up to 60 mph. A tractor-trailer overturned on the bridge and leaned

against the guardrail. Kelly Kiley, an interior designer, was driving on the span soon after the accident. "The travel on the bridge was extremely scary," Kiley said. "The crosswinds were terrible. Some of the taller box trucks were swaying." In Virginia, Gov. Bob McDonnell declared a state of emergency and about 50 National Guard soldiers were sent out to help clear roads. "Over the next 12 hours, as the storm churns up the coast quite slowly, we expect a lot more heavy wet snow, we expect heavy winds and that is a dangerous situation," he said about 1 p.m.

Continued on Page 4

Media blackout imposed ahead of Vatican conclave

**NICOLE WINFIELD
RACHEL ZOLL**

Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — In the end, American-style transparency was no match for the Vatican's obsession with secrecy.

Cardinals attending closed-door discussions ahead of the conclave to elect the next pope imposed a media blackout Wednesday, forcing the cancellation of the popular daily press briefings by U.S. cardinals that had provided crucial insights into the deliberations.

The official reason for the blackout was that some details of the secret discussions about the problems in the church appeared in the Italian newspaper *La Stampa*.

But speculation mounted that the underlying aim of the blackout was to silence the Americans, who have been vocal in their calls for disclosure about allegations of corruption and dysfunction in the Holy See's governance before they enter the conclave to elect a successor to Benedict XVI.

As a result, the conflict appears to be a microcosm

of the likely battle lines heading into the election: American and German cardinals have indicated they want a pope who will impose some order on the Vatican's inner workings, while the Vatican-based cardinals are defending their record and seeking to end the discussion.

One Italian cardinal said the Curia, or the Vatican bureaucracy, had been sorely maligned and that he could "only say good things about it."

"In the Curia, the pope has a docile tool that does exactly what he wants and tries to help him in the best of ways," Italian media quoted Cardinal Giovanni Lajolo, the retired administrator of the Vatican City State as saying during a book launch Tuesday. "Of course it can always be improved."

That picture is at odds with evidence of turf battles, Machiavellian machinations and allegations of corruption and cronyism that were exposed last year when private papal documents were leaked to an Italian journalist. The documents paint a portrait of an utterly dysfunctional,

ungovernable Italian bureaucracy.

The Vatican denied it had exerted any pressure on the American cardinals

pre-conclave meetings to be secret and part of a solemn process to choose a pope, suggesting that he didn't necessarily appreci-

serve," he said.

The debate played out as the Vatican awaited the arrival of the last voting-age cardinal: Vietnamese Cardinal Jean-Baptiste Pham Minh Man, who was expected in Rome on Thursday.

With his arrival, the College of Cardinals was expected to be able to set a date for the start of the conclave, where 115 men will select the next pontiff.

The spokeswoman for the U.S. cardinals, Sister Mary Ann Walsh, said Wednesday's briefing and all cardinal interviews were canceled after other cardinals expressed concern about the content of articles in Italian daily *La Stampa*, which over the past several days reported details of comments individual cardinals made in the closed-door meetings. *La Stampa* reported Wednesday,

for example, that the head of the Vatican's legal office had told the cardinals of the need for improved coordination among the various Vatican offices and better communication between the Holy See and local dioceses. □



Canadian Cardinal Marc Ouellet outside the Vatican, Wednesday, March 6, 2013.

(AP Photo/Alessandra Tarantino)

to keep quiet and cancel their briefings. But the Vatican spokesman, the Rev. Federico Lombardi, made clear that the Holy See considered this week's

ate the Americans' candor.

"The College (of Cardinals) as a whole has decided to maintain a line of an increasing degree of re-

Kenya is on edge over delays in vote tallying

Jeffrey Gettleman

© 2013 New York Times

NAIROBI, Kenya — As results from Kenya's hotly contested presidential election continued to trickle in Wednesday, persistent delays spawned all sorts of fears, frustrations and conspiracy theories.

The election was Monday, but because of a breakdown in a new vote-transmission system, results that should have been received and tabulated by Wednesday were not expected until later this week, keeping the country on edge.

On Wednesday, the presidential campaign of Uhuru Kenyatta, Kenya's deputy prime minister, who has been charged by the International Criminal Court with crimes against humanity, lashed out at the British

government, accusing it of meddling in the vote.

Kenyatta's team said it was "deeply concerned

normally high influx of British military personnel in the country which began around the voting day, un-

the British troops were on a "routine exercise" that was "completely unrelated to the Kenyan elections and was planned nine months ago."

Kenyatta, the son of Kenya's first president and the scion of one of the richest families in Africa, has been leading in the preliminary vote count and earlier this week seemed poised to clinch the race. He has been ahead by more than 10 percentage points over the second-place vote-getter, Raila Odinga, Kenya's prime minister.

But late Tuesday, the election commission decided to include hundreds of thousands of spoiled ballots in the overall count, of which a candidate must get more than 50 percent to be declared president. Election observers say that

decision may mean the election will go to a runoff, angering Kenyatta's supporters.

This is Kenya's first presidential election since 2007, when widespread evidence of vote-rigging set off intense ethnic clashes that killed more than 1,000 people. Prosecutors at the International Criminal Court accuse Kenyatta, along with his running mate, William Ruto, of organizing some of the violence.

Kenya has undertaken many major reforms since then, including passing a new constitution and overhauling its election process. In this election, votes were supposed to be transmitted directly from tallying centers to the election headquarters via encrypted data messages. □



A member of Kenya's General Service Unit stands guard outside a tallying center where county-level election results were being announced in the Mathare area of Nairobi, Kenya, March 6, 2013.

(Pete Muller/The New York Time - XNYT38

about the shadowy, suspicious and rather animated involvement of the British high commissioner" and "alarmed by the ab-

der the pretext of training." The British Foreign Office dismissed the claims of interference as "entirely false and misleading" and said

Senate Republicans block vote on Obama's CIA pick

RICHARD LARDNER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Republican critic of the Obama administration's drone policy succeeded Wednesday in blocking a vote on John Brennan's

dashed by Paul's lengthy floor speech.

The filibuster is only the latest snag to befall Obama's cabinet picks seeking Senate confirmation. So far, only Sen. John Kerry's nomination for Secretary of

State was approved by the Senate without any hitches. Paul began speaking shortly before noon on what he said was the Obama administration's refusal to rule out the possibility of drone strikes inside U.S. borders

against American citizens. Four other Republican Senators and one Democrat, joined Paul several hours after he began speaking. Paul said he would be willing to end his filibuster and proceed to a vote if he received the statement from the president or the attorney general. Holder came close to making such a statement earlier in the day during an exchange at a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing, according to Paul.

In a letter sent Tuesday to Paul, Brennan said the CIA does not have authority to conduct lethal operations inside the U.S.

Holder told Paul in a March 4 letter that the federal government has not conducted such operations and has no intention of doing so.

But Holder also wrote that he supposed it was possible under an "extraordinary circumstance" that the president would have no choice but to authorize the military to use lethal force inside U.S. borders. Holder cited the attacks at Pearl

Harbor and on Sept. 11, 2001, as examples.

Paul said he did not dispute that the president has the authority to take swift and lethal action against an enemy that carried out a significant attack against the United States. But Paul said he was "alarmed" at how difficult it has been to get the administration to clearly define what qualifies as a legitimate target of a drone strike.

"No president has the right to say he is judge, jury and executioner," Paul said.

Brennan's nomination won approval Tuesday by the Senate Intelligence Committee after the White House broke a lengthy impasse by agreeing to give lawmakers access to top-secret legal opinions justifying the use of lethal drone strikes against al-Qaida suspects overseas.

If confirmed, Brennan would replace Michael Morell, the CIA's deputy director who has been acting director since David Petraeus resigned in November after acknowledging an affair with his biographer. □



Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), center, and Attorney General Eric Holder, right, after a hearing of the committee in Washington, March 6, 2013.
(Stephen Crowley/The New York Times)

nomination to be CIA director over questions about the possible use of the unmanned weapons against American citizens. Sen. Rand Paul — son of Libertarian Presidential Candidate Ron Paul and a possible candidate in 2016 — mounted a filibuster against President Barack Obama's pick to lead the spy agency and he demanded that Obama or Attorney General Eric Holder issue a statement making clear that drones would not be used in the United States to kill terrorism suspects who are U.S. citizens. A filibuster is a parliamentary delaying tactic. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said he planned to file a motion to bring debate over Brennan's nomination to lead the spy agency to an end. But he would need 60 votes in the 100-member Senate to do that. Reid had been pushing for a confirmation vote to be held Wednesday, but those plans were

US House OKs bill to avoid shutdown

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Republican-controlled House of Representatives approved legislation Wednesday to prevent a U.S. government shutdown on March 27 and blunt the impact of deep spending cuts on the Defense Department.

The vote sent the measure to the Senate, where Democrats who control the chamber hope to give additional Cabinet agencies similar flexibility in implementing their shares of the \$85 billion in spending cuts that threaten the economy's fragile recovery. Republicans said the measure was essential to keep the government operating smoothly after current funding expires on March 27.

The Obama administration and congressional Republicans have been working together to ease the impact of the spending cuts

that must take effect by the end of the budget year on Sept. 30.

The overall size of the cuts remains in place, with half

ans Affairs Department flexibility to allocate cuts that no agency currently has. Senate Democrats seem likely to agree to the flexibility if it can be expanded

involved the White House. Among the candidates are the departments of Homeland Security,

Transportation, Justice and State. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity, saying they were not authorized to disclose details. The move marks a reversal for President Barack Obama, who spoke dismissively in recent days of Republican plans for flexibility in administering the cuts. "You don't want to have to choose between, Let's see, do I close funding for the disabled kid or the poor kid?"

Do I close this Navy shipyard or some other one?" he said Feb. 26.

The cuts were designed to be blunt and unattractive that the Obama administration and a bitterly divided Congress would be forced to come up with an alternative for trimming the country's deficit. □



Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, March 6, 2013. Graham and a small group of GOP senators were invited to dinner by President Barack Obama Wednesday night to address political gridlock.
(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

from defense and half from domestic programs. But the new legislation gives the Pentagon and the Veter-

to include other agencies, according to several officials who described closed-door talks that in-

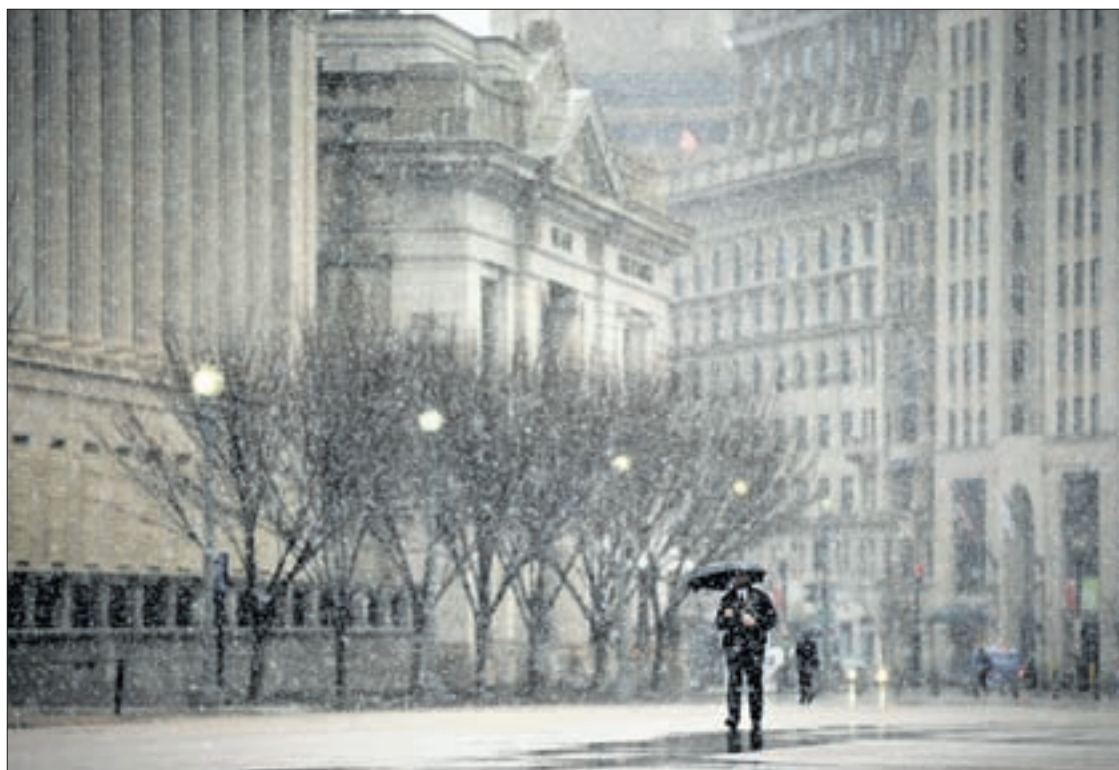
Storm slams Mid-Atlantic; 250K lose power

Continued from front

"So stay off the roads, stay inside, enjoy the day off." More than 200,000 people in Virginia alone were without power and another 40,000 in New Jersey were in the dark. Hundreds of wrecks were reported around the region. In Richmond, most commuters appeared to be headed home by midday with the exception of Clint Davis, an attorney who was needed in U.S. Bankruptcy Court. "Unless they canceled court, I had to be here," said Davis, who was wearing a hooded slicker over his suit to shield himself from gobs of snow blown from

of customers patronized the Glory Days Grill. Carolyn Donahue was working from home and trekked out with her husband, Tom, for a lunch break without any trouble on slushy but passable roads. "I don't consider this a big storm," he said. Downtown Washington was unusually quiet. Officials eager to avoid a repeat of 2011 pre-emptively shut down federal offices and canceled public schools. The roughly 300,000 federal employees inside the Beltway and in surrounding counties were treated to a paid snow day. "So far, knock on wood, we've dodged on this

some motorists to be stuck in traffic nearly overnight. It dropped 5 inches on Washington and 7.8 inches on Baltimore, knocked out power to about 320,000 homes and contributed to six deaths. The federal government later changed its policies to allow workers to leave their offices sooner or to work from home if major storms are expected. There were at least four deaths. A semi-trailer slid off a snow-covered interstate in western Wisconsin, killing two people. A central Indiana woman died when a semi-trailer plowed into her car after she lost control merging onto the highway, and a man from Columbia City in northeast



A pedestrian walks down Pennsylvania Ave near the White House in Washington, Wednesday, March 6, 2013. Schools, businesses and the federal government closed in anticipation of a snow storm that largely spared the nation's capital, which was expecting much worse.

(AP Photo/Pablo Monsivais)

trees. "I'll be here for two or three hours and come out to a snow-covered car." Up to 20 inches of snow piled up in parts of central and western Virginia. Some communities in Washington's outer suburbs saw significant accumulation too, including in Loudoun County, which had 9 inches. In Sterling, Va., a glaze of slush and snow coated major roads and side streets, but traffic was relatively light and plow trucks came through repeatedly. Many retailers were closed. Only a handful

one," said D.C. Homeland Security director Chris Geldart. "We're keeping our fingers crossed that it remains the way it's been." Some congressional hearings were postponed, but the House managed to approve legislation to prevent a government shutdown on March 27 and President Barack Obama was set to have dinner with GOP senators at hotel on Wednesday night. The Baltimore-Washington area's last major snowstorm struck Jan. 26, 2011. It hit Washington during the evening rush hour, causing

Indiana was killed when his snowmobile left the road, headed across a field and crashed into a wire fence. The storm brought around 10 inches of snow to weather-hardened Chicago on Tuesday, closing schools and canceling more than 1,100 flights at the city's two major airports. Hundreds more flights were canceled Wednesday at Dulles and Reagan National airports in the Washington area, according to FlightAware.com. In Pennsylvania and Ohio, many areas had 4 to 6 inches of snow. □



Subaru Legacys are lined up at Twin City Subaru in Berlin, Vt. Strong auto sales, better hiring and a continued housing recovery helped the U.S. economy grow in January and February throughout the country, according to a survey released Wednesday, March 6, 2013 by the Federal Reserve.

(AP Photo/Toby Talbot)

Fed survey: U.S. economy is growing throughout country

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) —

Strong auto sales, better hiring and a continued housing recovery helped the U.S. economy grow in January and February throughout the country, according to a survey released Wednesday by the Federal Reserve.

The survey noted that 10 of the Fed's 12 banking districts reported moderate or modest growth, while the Boston and Chicago districts reported slow growth. Consumer spending increased in most regions, although spending growth slowed in many districts and much of the gains were driven by auto sales. Many districts said consumers pulled back slightly elsewhere after seeing taxes rise and gas prices increase. Some also expressed concerns about federal spending cuts that started on March 1.

Housing markets showed more strength in nearly all parts of the country. Manufacturing grew modestly in most regions after struggling in through most of 2012. And many districts reported improvement in individual jobs markets.

The report, called the Beige Book, provides anecdotal information on economic conditions through February 22. The information will be discussed along with other economic data during the Fed's next policy meeting on March 19-20.

Analysts said the report was slightly more upbeat than the previous Fed survey, noting the modest rebound in manufacturing in the past two months. Jennifer Lee, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets, called the latest survey "more encouraging news on the U.S. economy."

Many economists believe Fed officials will maintain their low-interest rate policies at current levels but take no new steps at the March meeting. In January, the Fed stood behind aggressive steps it launched in December to try to reduce unemployment. It repeated that it would keep its key short-term interest rate at a record low at least until unemployment falls below 6.5 percent. And the Fed said it would keep buying Treasuries and mortgage bonds to help lower borrowing costs and encourage spending.

The unemployment rate was 7.9 percent in January when the Fed last met.

The economy has shown improvement since then, even as Americans paid higher taxes and automatic government spending cuts loomed. On Jan. 1, nearly all Americans who draw a paycheck began paying higher Social Security taxes and income taxes rose for the highest earning workers. The tax increases and broader budget debate in Washington haven't slowed financial markets. □

Giffords visits site of rampage, urges gun control

CRISTINA SILVA
Associated Press

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — Former Rep. Gabrielle Giffords returned to the scene of the horrific shooting that wounded her and killed six people two years ago, urging senators Wednesday to pass background checks for gun purchases in her first public event at the site since the rampage. Giffords, who is still recovering from her injuries, spoke fewer than 20 words in the parking lot of the Safeway grocery store in her hometown of Tucson in a brief but emotional call for stricter gun control measures. "Be bold. Be courageous," Giffords said. "Please support background checks." At one point, Giffords pumped her fist in the air and grinned.

Other survivors joined Giffords at the news conference, along with her husband, Mark Kelly. Giffords and Kelly have returned to the Safeway previously to visit the memorial, but Wednesday marked their first public event at the store since the shooting. Sheriff's deputies were there to provide security. A gun control group started by Giffords and Kelly began airing a new television ad in Arizona and Iowa Tuesday urging Congress to take action. Giffords and Kelly support extending background checks to gun shows and Internet purchases. The Senate Judiciary Committee is scheduled to take up tougher firearm regulations Thursday. Arizona Sen. Jeff Flake, who sits on the com-



Former Rep. Gabrielle Giffords smiles as she raises a fist pump to the crowd as she, her husband Mark Kelly, and a number of other Tucson mass shooting victims returned to the site of a shooting that left her critically wounded to urge key senators to support expanded background checks for gun purchases, Wednesday, March 6, 2013, in Tucson, Ariz.

(AP Photo/Ross D. Franklin)

mittee, has criticized universal background checks. "This discussion is not really

about the Second Amendment," Kelly said. "It's about public safety and keeping guns out of the hands of the dangerously mentally ill."

Jared Lee Loughner, 24, was sentenced in November to seven consecutive life sentences, plus 140 years, in the Tucson shooting. The rampage happened at a meet-and-

greet event organized by Giffords outside the grocery store on Jan. 8, 2011. Kelly said it was not difficult to return to the place where his wife nearly died. As he spoke, shoppers and vehicles moved throughout the ubiquitous shopping center that includes a nail salon, a Starbucks and dry cleaners. It smelled like grocery store fried chicken. It's places like this, Kelly said, that Congress needs to make safer.

Supporters gave Giffords a standing ovation as she arrived at the event with her husband and staffers. With Kelly's help, Giffords walked directly to a memorial outside the supermarket honoring the victims of the shooting, where she placed a bouquet of white roses and daisies. Kelly, who was not present when the shooting occurred, recalled the massacre that took place two years ago on a chilly morning. Loughner walked toward Giffords and shot her once in the head before directing fire at the crowd around her. □

Lion kills worker at California animal park

Associated Press

DUNLAP, California (AP) — A male African lion killed an intern-volunteer on Wednesday at a private wild animal park in Central California where the cat had been raised since it was a cub, authorities said. The woman was attacked and killed when she entered the lion's enclosure, said Dale Anderson, founder and executive director Cat Haven in Dunlap, California. Anderson, who was crying as he read a one-sentence statement about the fatal mauling at the exotic animal zoo he has operated since 1993, refused to take questions from reporters, but extended thoughts and prayers to the victim's friends and relatives. The facility, which is near Fresno in the Sierra Nevada foothills, is licensed by the California

Department of Fish and Wildlife. It is normally closed on Wednesdays, and only one other worker was there when the mauling happened, said Fresno County sheriff's Sgt. Greg Collins. He said investigators were trying to determine why the person was inside the enclosure and what might have provoked the attack. A sheriff's deputy shot and killed the lion after the attack, California Fish and Wildlife spokesman Lt. Tony Spada said. The lion, a 4-year-old male named Couscous, had been raised at Cat Haven since it was 8 weeks old, said Tanya Osegueda, a spokeswoman for Project Survival, the nonprofit that operates Cat Haven. Osegueda did not know how the park acquired the cub. Cat Haven is a 100-acre (40-hectare) wild animal

park just west of Kings Canyon National Park. Since the property opened in 1993, it has housed numerous big cats, including tigers, leopards and other exotic species. □



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Arias answers to jurors in murder case

BRIAN SKOLOFF
Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — Jodi Arias was peppered with questions from the jury in her murder trial Wednesday about her actions on the day she killed her lover and in the months leading up to that fateful day in Arizona. Arizona is one of just a few states where jurors are allowed to ask questions of witnesses during a criminal trial as a matter of law. Jurors in the Arias trial had about 100 questions for her after her lengthy testimony over the last two weeks. Judge Sherry Stephens read the questions aloud to Arias, and they included

from the victim's closet as they fought on the day of the killing, and why she worked to clean the crime scene.

Arias said she grabbed the gun from Alexander's closet during a fight at his house, and she was asked how she could have time to retrieve the gun while being chased.

"I just had the sense that he was chasing me," she said. After killing Alexander, Arias took photos of his bloody corpse and then put the camera in a clothes washer. The jury asked her why she did that.

"I don't know why I would have done that," she said.

lose their role as an impartial fact-finder and slip into the role of an advocate, and I think that's contrary to what the whole justice system is based upon," said Los Angeles-area defense attorney Mark Geragos.

"In effect, you've deputized the jurors as investigators," Geragos added.

Others, however, say the practice is a useful tool aimed at getting to the truth of a case, and provides attorneys on both sides a window in the deliberation room while the trial is still ongoing, giving lawyers time to change their strategies.

Phoenix criminal defense



Jodi Arias testifies in Maricopa County Superior Court in downtown Phoenix. Arias is on trial for the murder of Travis Alexander in 2008.

(AP Photo/Tome Tingle)

a range of subjects. One of them focused on why she didn't call the police after she claimed victim Travis Alexander was abusive. Arias was calm and composed as she provided succinct answers to the questions.

The questions provided a glimpse into juror's thoughts after hearing her testify over 15 days about practically every detail of her life, from her childhood in California to her stormy romance with Alexander and her conversion to the Mormon faith.

They asked her about past relationships with other men, how easily it would have been to get the gun

She faces the death penalty if convicted of first-degree murder. She says the killing was self-defense, and hopes that the jury spares her the death penalty by convicting her of a lesser murder count.

Stephens and attorneys worked Wednesday morning to whittle down the list of about 100 questions the panel had for Arias as objections were raised in private.

Many other states, including California, allow jury questions at the judge's discretion, but not all agree it's a good idea.

"It becomes too difficult, too tempting for a juror to

attorney Julio Laboy said juror questions of a witness during a case where he was representing a client charged with murder once led to prosecutors offering a deal to plead to a lesser count.

"In the end, what this is all really about is the search for truth, and any mechanism that allows jurors to get closer to the truth without prejudicing one side or the other, I think, is a good tool," Laboy said.

"And it really is a window into the juror's mindset," he added. "It can help attorneys direct which way you need to go, what path you should take." □



Mark Strong Sr. leaves the Cumberland County Court House in Portland, Maine.

(AP Photo/Robert F. Bukaty)

Strong convicted in Maine "Zumba Prostitution" case

DAVID SHARP
Associated Press

ALFRED, Maine (AP) — An insurance agent was convicted Wednesday of promoting a prostitution business centered at a Zumba dance studio in a small coastal town better known more for its old sea captains' homes and beaches than crime.

Mark Strong Sr., 57, acknowledged having an affair with Alexis Wright and helping her open the studio but contended he didn't profit from her activities. His attorneys said he was a smitten lover who wanted to help the single mother. Wright is awaiting trial and has pleaded not guilty.

The prostitution charges and ensuing publicity attracted international attention to Kennebunk, a town of 10,000 that borders Kennebunkport, home to former-President George H.W. Bush family's Walker's Point summer compound. The scandal garnered attention last fall after it was reported that Wright's ledgers indicated she had more than 150 client and had been videotaping their encounters without their knowledge.

Jurors deliberated for 4 1/2 hours before announcing that they had found Strong guilty of all 13 counts — 12 of promoting prostitution and one of conspiracy. He showed no emotion as the verdict was announced. His wife leaned into his son and cried.

Strong contends he co-signed for Wright's studio and loaned her money that was repaid. But the defense said he never recruited johns or profited from Wright's business.

Testimony and videos presented to jurors indicated Strong was familiar with operational details of Wright's prostitution, chatting via Skype before and after her appointments and watching the sexual encounters from his office 100 miles (160 kilometers) away. Before each tryst, Wright took time to make sure the Skype video camera was hidden and pointed at the massage table where the encounters took place.

Law enforcement officials said the prostitution took place at Wright's home, office and Zumba studio.

But all of the evidence presented during the trial focused on her rented office, where law enforcement officers seized video equipment, computers, condoms and other items. Even as lurid details emerged in the courtroom, Strong's wife of 30 years and several other family members remained seated several rows behind him to show support.

One thing that was missing from the trial was testimony from Wright's accused clients.

Eighteen of them were on the state's list of witnesses, but none of them testified after attorneys stipulated that the encounters took place. □

A true diplomatic natural, Kerry hits ground running

MATTHEW LEE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — With the smile of a seasoned politician, a flair for languages and a vast repertoire of personal anecdotes, Secretary of State John Kerry schmoozed and cajoled his way through Europe and the Middle East on his first trip abroad as America's top envoy. But as far as diplomatic triumphs go, Dennis Rodman stole the show.

Kerry plunged into his first official overseas voyage by touring the capitals of America's traditional Western European allies, charming his hosts in Britain, France, Germany and Italy with his patrician bearing, fluent French, passable German and smattering of Italian. He greeted officials with the comfortable blue-blooded bonhomie of a well-heeled man at ease in the grand salons of London, Paris, Berlin and Rome, yet one still deeply affected by his combat experience in Vietnam, something he made clear to German youth in a town hall meeting on the second stop of the trip.

Leaving Europe behind, Kerry immersed himself in the byzantine politics of a volatile Mideast that is struggling with the chaotic aftermath of the Arab Spring, an area in which the Obama administration must toe a delicate line between advocacy and unwanted interference.

In Rome and Cairo, he doled out modest aid packages to the Syrian opposition and to Egypt's foundering Islamist government with an appeal for that country's bickering politicians to save their nation from economic ruin — at the same time Congress and the Obama administration were bickering about cuts to the United States' budget. In Ankara and Riyadh, he rebuked the Turks over anti-Israel rhetoric and warned Iran about its nuclear program. The silver-maned, slightly hard-of-hearing, 69-year-old Kerry also announced

a significant shift in policy toward the Free Syrian Army, providing nonlethal assistance directly to the armed rebels fighting to oust President Bashar Assad.

However, the biggest diplomatic coup during Kerry's trip sprung from his antithesis: a flamboyant, retired NBA star with multiple body piercings who became the first American to have ever met North Korea's reclusive young leader, Kim Jong-Un.

Thus it was Dennis Keith Rodman, former Chicago Bull, Southeastern Oklahoma State attendee, basketball journeyman and Madonna boy toy, and not Yale-educated John Forbes Kerry, former Massachusetts senator and Democratic presidential nominee, who was the talk of the foreign policy cocktail circuit back home.

Kerry told NBC on Tuesday that Rodman "was a great basketball player, and as a diplomat, he was a great basketball player. That's where we'll leave it."

Still, Kerry soldiered on, conscious of the legacy left by his predecessor, Hillary Rodham Clinton, but determined to make his own mark on U.S. diplomacy as America's 68th secretary of state and clean up some long unfinished business along with way.

At a meeting with U.S. Embassy staff in Abu Dhabi, the ex-chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee described himself as a "recovering politician and budding diplomat" and reprised the biggest laugh line of his speech to the State Department on his first on the job. "I have big heels to fill," he said to chuckles. "The big test, obviously, as I mentioned, is: Can a man do this job now?" For the man whose entire life appears to have been prologue to being secretary of state is wrapping up a diplomatic dash that has taken him to nine countries in 10 days.

He has his diplomatic passport back and seems ready to use it. □



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, who speaks several languages, jokes about needing headphones to listen to Italian at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Rome.

(AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)



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Maine: Missing skier found alive near Sugarloaf resort

T. Andersen
J. Bencks
Globe Staff
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To survive two frigid nights, 17-year-old Nicholas Joy, a fan of survivalist television shows, built a snow cave. For water, he dipped into the icy Carrabassett Stream. For food, there was no option: he went without.

Meanwhile, rescuers were frantically searching for the Medford teen, who became separated Sunday from his father on the foggy slopes of Sugarloaf Mountain Resort in Maine. Searchers knew they were racing against the clock.

"All we could do was hope and pray," said Diane DiGirolamo, Joy's aunt. Now the family is celebrating. On Tuesday, the relatively healthy teen walked out of the woods, and was greeted by a rescue searcher.

"We're just ecstatic," said his aunt. The news also brought tears of happiness to family members gathered at a chapel at the resort, an official said. His aunt said his first request for food was a hamburger.

Joy appeared at 9 a.m. Tuesday on Caribou Pond Road, a couple of miles west of the resort, and found Joseph Paul, 44, an off-duty fire captain from Warwick, Mass., who was searching the area on his snowmobile.

"He said, 'I'm glad to see somebody,'" Paul said in a phone interview.

Joy had been skiing with his father, Robert, at Sugarloaf Sunday morning and was

last seen near the Timberline trail on the mountain's west side around 1 p.m., when he skied off the trail network.

Authorities said Tuesday



Featured is Sugarloaf Mountain, Carrabassett Valley, Maine.
(Handout Photo)

that Joy built the snow cave for shelter and drank water from the Carrabassett Stream, but had no food.

Nearly 100 people from several agencies and private groups -- including the resort's ski patrol, US Border Patrol, and Maine Forest Service -- had searched for the teen, the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife said in a statement.

Joy's rescue began when he heard snowmobiles in the woods on Monday, and then walked toward the direction of the noise on Tuesday. He also followed snowshoe tracks left by searchers, the statement said.

Ironically, Paul was not part

of the search team but decided to help out after learning that Joy had gone missing. He said he provided peanuts and crackers to Joy, who looked "cold

and hungry."

"Actually, he was in pretty good spirits, considering [having spent] that long in the woods by yourself," Paul said.

Doug Rafferty, a spokesman for inland fisheries and wildlife, said Joy was staying overnight Tuesday at Franklin Memorial Hospital in Farmington, Maine, but was doing well.

A hospital spokeswoman said Joy was in stable condition on Tuesday.

"He's got a little pain in his stomach, which probably comes from not eating for 48 hours," Rafferty said.

"There is no apparent frostbite or anything like that, no significant dehydration. For the most part, he's in pretty good shape."

He said rescuers knew on Tuesday that time was running out.

"We knew that he needed to be found today," Rafferty said. "Your odds of keeping your wits about you and being rational in your thoughts and so forth decreases the longer the time goes without food and not much shelter. It starts to taper off pretty quickly."

Neither Joy nor his parents, Robert and Donna, could be reached for comment. In a statement, his parents expressed gratitude for their son's safe return.

"There is great relief and happiness that Nicholas has made it through this difficult ordeal," they said.

"We want to thank everyone for their hopes and prayers and especially members of the rescue team."

Outside Medford High School, where Joy is a senior, Matheus Anastacio, 18, said he was surprised to learn of his friend's survival skills.

"I didn't know he had what it took to make it," Anastacio said. "For him to be alive, it's such a good day."

School officials said a message alerting students to the rescue was played on the intercom when the news broke.

Joyce The Voice, a substitute teacher, said she heard the announcement in a classroom.

"It was such a relief -- we were all on edge, to say the least," she said, adding that she knew Joy as a quiet kid. □

House requires USPS to keep six-day delivery

RON NIXON
© 2013 New York Times

WASHINGTON — A spending measure passed by the House on Wednesday to keep the government operating through September requires that the Postal Service maintain a six-day mail delivery schedule, a potential setback for the agency, which announced last month that it planned to go to five-day deliveries to cut costs.

The legislation passed the House 267-151, with 137 Democrats voting against it. The measure now moves to the Senate.

Faced with billions of dollars in losses, Postal Service officials said last month that beginning in August the service would stop delivering mail on Saturdays, although it would continue to deliver packages on a six-day schedule. The agency said cutting Saturday delivery would save about \$2 billion a year.

The agency lost about \$15.9 billion last year, partly the result of a 2006 law requiring it to pay about \$5.5 billion into a health benefits fund for its future retirees. A drop in mail volume has also hurt the agency's finances.

The move to end Saturday mail delivery was condemned by some lawmakers, unions and postal customers.

After the House voted to pass the spending measure, Rep. Jose E. Serrano, D-N.Y., said the legislation made clear that Congress' intent was for the Postal Service to continue to deliver mail on Saturdays. □



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UN: 21 peacekeepers detained by Syrian rebels

EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) —

Armed fighters linked to the Syrian opposition detained 21 U.N. peacekeepers Wednesday in the increasingly volatile zone separating Israeli and Syrian troops on the Golan Heights, a new escalation in the spill-over of Syria's civil war.

The U.N. Security Council demanded their immediate and unconditional release. The capture comes a week after the announcement that a member of the peacekeeping force is missing. The force, known as UNDOF, was established in 1974 following the 1973 Yom Kippur war to monitor the disengagement of Israeli and Syrian forces and maintain a cease-fire.

Israeli officials have grown increasingly jittery as the Syrian war moves closer to Israel. There have been several instances in which stray fire has landed in the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights, and Israel is concerned that Syrian weapons could fall into

the hands of hostile groups and be used against Israel. Israel captured the Golan Heights from Syria in 1967 and Syria wants the land returned in exchange for peace. Russia's U.N. Ambassador Vitaly Churkin, the current Security Council president, said talks are under way between U.N. officials from the peacekeeping force and the captors.

U.N. peacekeeping chief Herve Ladsous, who briefed the council behind closed doors, identified the captors as being from a group associated with the Syrian armed opposition, Churkin said. “There was no fighting, according to his briefing to us,” Churkin said. “My understanding is that they took over the trucks in which the UNDOF personnel was moving around.” Churkin said the capture of the peacekeepers “is particularly unacceptable and bizarre” because the UNDOF peacekeepers are unarmed and their mission has nothing to do with Syria's internal conflict.



Russia's U.N. Ambassador Vitaly Churkin speaks at the stake-out area outside the United Nations Security Council, Wednesday, March 6, 2013. Churkin, the current Security Council president, said talks are under way between U.N. officials from the peacekeeping force, known as UNDOF, and the captors of 21 UN peacekeepers in the Golan Heights by a group of armed fighters linked to the Syrian opposition.

(AP Photo/Rick Bajornas, UN)

“They are there on a completely different mission so there is no reason at all under any circumstances, any kind of sick imagination to try to harm those people,” he said.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon also condemned the capture of the 21 peacekeepers, U.N. deputy spokesman Eduardo del Buey said.

Del Buey said the U.N. observers were on a regular supply mission when they were stopped by approximately 30 armed fighters near an observation post that was damaged in heavy combat last weekend and had been evacuated. A video posted online by activists showed a group of armed rebels standing around at least three white U.N. vehicles with the words UNDOF on them, allegedly in the village of Jamlah in Daraa province. The video, circulated by the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, said the peacekeepers being held by the rebels are 20 Filipinos. □

Taliban kill 17 Afghan soldiers in Badakhshan region

ROD NORDLAND

© 2013 New York Times

KABUL, Afghanistan —

Taliban insurgents killed as many as 17 Afghan National Army soldiers in a single incident in northern Badakhshan province, an area that has been generally quiet and far from insurgent strongholds until recent months, according to accounts from Afghan officials Wednesday.

The incident began when a supply convoy of Afghan soldiers was ambushed by the insurgents Sunday, with one soldier killed and

22 others captured in the rugged Warduj district, according to Abdul Marouf Rasikh, spokesman for the provincial governor in Badakhshan.

Negotiations using tribal elders as go-betweens were carried out and six of the soldiers were released alive, but another 16 were executed by the insurgents, Rasikh said. Their bodies were turned over to the authorities by the same elders, he said.

If the death toll was accurate, it was one of the single deadliest attacks on

government soldiers by the insurgents in recent memory; other Afghan officials sought to play down the death toll.

Casualties among Afghan National Army soldiers have risen by nearly a fourth nationwide in the current Afghan calendar year, which ends later this month, compared with the previous year. This year, 1,086 were killed, and last year 841 Afghan soldiers died, according to the spokesman for the Afghan Ministry of Defense, Gen. Mohammad Zahir Azimi. The increase

reflects the greater share of fighting taken on by the Afghans as the international coalition winds down its presence.

A spokesman for the Taliban, Zabiullah Mujahid, in an email distributed to journalists, disputed the government's version of the Badakhshan incident. In his account, the insurgents ambushed a convoy and killed 15 soldiers, as well as capturing 12 of them, one of whom was wounded.

“The rest of the other enemy soldiers fled from the area and left their dead on

the battlefield,” he said.

In Mujahid's account, negotiations with local elders persuaded the Taliban to release the captured soldiers on their promise not to return to the war. The only prisoner who died in Taliban custody, he said, was the wounded soldier.

“If the mujahedeen wanted to kill captured soldiers then we would have not released 11 soldiers including their senior officers,” Mujahid said.

He also said they turned over the bodies of the dead through the elders. □

EU fines Microsoft \$733M for breaking browser pact

TOBY STERLING
Associated Press

AMSTERDAM (AP) — The European Union has fined Microsoft \$733 million for breaking a pledge to offer personal computer users a choice of Internet browsers when they install the company's flagship Windows operating system. The penalty imposed by the EU's executive arm, the Commission, is a first for Brussels: no company has ever failed to keep its end of a bargain with EU authorities before. In 2009, Microsoft Corp. struck a broad settlement with the Commission to resolve disputes over the company's abuse of the dominance of Windows, which had spanned more than a decade. Back then, the company agreed to pay €860 million and promised to give Windows users the option of choosing another browser rather than having Microsoft's Internet Explorer automatically installed on their machines. But Microsoft failed to stick to the deal for some 15 mil-

lion installations of Windows 7 software in Europe from May 2011 until July 2012. The company admitted the failure last year, adding that it was a mistake. The Commission's top competition regulator, Joaquin

Almunia, said the length of time it went on for. It was also intended to make an example of Microsoft and deter other companies from doing same thing. In theory, the commission could have fined Micro-

cialist at Boston University said the fine was "far in excess of any benefit Microsoft could have gotten from the error, and vastly in excess of any harm to EU consumers, who are all aware of alternatives to Internet Explorer."

In all, Microsoft has now paid €2.2 billion in fines to the Commission since 1998, when regulators opened their first investigations into the company after Sun Microsystems complained it had been denied access to technical documents. Over the years, the EU has broadened its investigation to include whether Microsoft had abused Windows' near-monopoly over the market for computer operating systems to corner other markets, including server software, streaming media software, and Internet browsers.

Anthony Sabino, an anti-trust lawyer and professor at St. John's University, said the Commission was right to fine Microsoft for the latest lapse, but the size of the penalty seemed "disproportionate...perhaps even petty, given that Microsoft has paid its fines and yielded to all the demands of the EU."

"They have been slow to acknowledge that, while powerful, Microsoft is not

invincible," he said.

Sabino added that Microsoft may be paying the price in part for its aggressiveness in the past in testing the limits of what regulators will tolerate.

Given the length of time the latest violation went on, and the number of users affected, "it does strain credibility" that Microsoft wouldn't have known it had failed to keep its part of the agreement, Sabino added.

For its part, Microsoft was apologetic.

"We take full responsibility for the technical error that caused this problem and have apologized for it," the company said in a statement. "We provided the Commission with a complete and candid assessment of the situation, and we have taken steps ... to help avoid this mistake — or anything similar — in the future."

Microsoft's Internet Explorer still has a 56 percent market share for Internet browsers on personal computers, according to statistics by Net Applications. Mozilla's Firefox has 20 percent while Google's Chrome has a 17 percent share. Microsoft is required to continue to offer consumers a choice of browsers through 2014. □



European Commissioner for Competition Joaquin Almunia pauses before answering a question during a media conference at EU headquarters in Brussels on Wednesday, March 6, 2013. The European Union Commission has fined Microsoft US dollars 733 million for breaking the terms of an earlier agreement to offer users a choice of internet browser.

(AP Photo/Virginia Mayo)

Almunia, said at a press conference in Brussels, Belgium, Wednesday that the fine reflected the size of the

soft up to 10 percent of its global annual sales during the period the violation took place.

"A failure to comply is a very serious infringement that must be sanctioned accordingly," Almunia said.

Keith Hylton, a professor of law and antitrust spe-

UK:

Cameron to dismiss calls for policy shift

C. VINOGRAD
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British Prime Minister David Cameron is expected to reject calls for a shift in economic policy and vow to maintain a course of austerity despite calls for more stimulus and an embarrassing ratings-agency downgrade. In a key speech on the economy Thursday, Cameron will argue that the U.K. is beginning to see signs of progress thanks to his government's tough economic policy and that changing its approach risks plunging Britain "back into the abyss."

His remarks — previewed

in extracts released ahead of the speech — come following a bruising set of economic developments in recent weeks.

Moody's Investor Service downgraded the U.K.'s credit rating last month, saying that sluggish economic growth would hinder the government's ability to control rising debt levels and deal with any new financial shocks. Two other ratings agencies, Fitch and Standard & Poor's, have Britain on negative outlook, signaling they too could lower the country's credit rating.

The Bank of England, too, has expressed grow-

ing concern over Britain's economy and came surprisingly close to backing another monetary stimulus in their last meeting. The central bank's next decision on interest rates is Thursday — the same day Cameron will make his case in West Yorkshire for holding firm on his government's economic policy.

"Of course the challenges are huge. And there is a long way to go. But already there are signs that our plan is beginning to work," Cameron is expected to say, citing a lower deficit, record-low interest rates and signs of a turnaround in exports as progress. □

SPECIAL

First Course

CAJUN BEEF SALAD
tossed with olives, onions, paprika and chili sauce

SEAFOOD COCKTAIL
with a pink yoghurt cocktail sauce

ESCARGOT A LA CREME
creamy garlic sauce with fresh mushrooms

GARDEN SALAD BOULANGERE
dressed with your choice of dressing

Second Course

SOUP OF THE DAY
home made

Third Course

STEAK DIANE
with sauteed mushrooms tomatoes and herbs

PICCATA MILANAISE
served on a bed of pasta with parmesan

CHICKEN FLORENTINE
baked stuffed with creamed spinach

PLAIN OR STUFFED GROUPE
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Seoul: military leaders could be targeted

CHOE SANG-HUN

© 2013 New York Times

SEOUL, South Korea – The South Korean military warned Wednesday that if provoked by North Korea, it would strike the North's "command leadership," in a sharp escalation of a war of words that hinted at an attack on a North Korean headquarters. The warning came a day after the North Korean People's Army threatened to attack the United States and its South Korean ally with "lighter and smaller nukes" – an outburst provoked by the U.N. Security Council's consideration of tough new sanctions on Pyongyang as punishment for its February nuclear blast. North Korea's typically strident rhetoric has grown bolder following its successful recent tests of a long-range rocket and nuclear device, especially in the past week as the United States and South Korea started their joint annual military exercises. South Korea usually does not respond to North Korean tongue-lashing, dismissing it as propaganda. But amid fears among officials and analysts here that North Korea might provoke a deadly skirmish to shake the new government of President Park Geun-hye and destabilize the region, the South Korean military called a news conference Wednesday to deliver one of its most categorical public warnings in recent months. "If North Korea attempts a provocation that threatens the lives and security of our people, our military will forcefully and decisively strike not only the origin of provocation and its supporting forces but also its command leadership," □

Court suspends Egypt's parliament election

MAGGIE MICHAEL

SARAH EL DEEB

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — An Egyptian court on Wednesday ordered the suspension of parliamentary elections scheduled to begin in April, opening a legal battle likely to delay the vote and deepening the political crisis between the Islamist president and his opponents that has polarized the nation for months. The new confusion surrounding the election underlined the paralysis gripping Egypt, between political deadlock, infighting among state institutions, a faltering economy and a wave of protests, strikes and clashes against Morsi and his Muslim Brotherhood that has spiraled for months around the country. In the Suez Canal city of Port Said, scene of heavy clashes between protesters and police that have left six dead since Sunday, the violence entered a

fourth day, dragging in the military. Protesters hurled stones at police firing tear gas, as army troops struggled to keep the two sides apart. Morsi's Islamist supporters and some in the public

mainly liberal and secular opposition had called a boycott of the vote, saying Morsi must first find some political consensus and ease the wave of popular anger. Whether or not the opposition boycotts, the

the various sides in Egypt's political battles.

The Cairo administrative court ruled that the Islamist-dominated parliament had improperly pushed through a law organizing the elections without allowing the Supreme Constitutional Court to review it to ensure it conforms with the constitution. The court ordered the law referred to the constitutional court and the election suspended in the meantime. The court annulled a decree by Morsi calling the election.

Morsi's opponents quickly pointed to the ruling as further proof of their accusations that Morsi and his ruling Muslim Brotherhood are mismanaging the country, trying to dominate power without reaching consensus with others or abiding by the law.

"The mess continues courtesy of epic failure of governance," prominent opposition figure Mohamed ElBaradei said in a Tweet. □



Two Egyptian police officers wear masks as they stand guard during clashes with protesters, not seen, near the state security building in Port Said, Egypt, Wednesday, March 6, 2013.

(AP Photo/Khalil Hamra)

exhausted by the turmoil have viewed the parliamentary elections as a step toward bringing some stability, accusing the opposition of stirring up unrest to derail the voting. But the

Islamists would likely win a parliamentary majority. The new court ruling is unlikely to defuse the tension, bringing the dispute into the judiciary, which has repeatedly been used by

US accuses Iran of 'deception and delay'

VIENNA (AP) — A senior U.S. envoy accused Iran of "deception, defiance and delay" Wednesday in dealing with international concerns about its nuclear activities, reflecting frustration over Tehran's expanding uranium enrichment program and stalled U.N. attempts to determine whether Tehran has worked secretly on atomic arms.

Joseph Macmanus, the chief U.S. delegate to the International Atomic Energy Agency, also suggested that the U.S. might push for tougher diplomatic action in the coming months. While not going into details, his comments indicated that America might lobby the IAEA board to

ask for a special inspection of Parchin, a facility that the agency suspects was used to test explosive triggers for a nuclear weapon, or that the United States would seek an IAEA resolution critical of Tehran. International criticism of Iran has been relatively muted since last week's nuclear talks in which Tehran showed interest in proposals made by the United States and five other world powers. While expressing concern about enrichment and the deadlocked probe, the six powers avoided tough language and mentioned the "useful meetings" that produced the proposals in a joint statement Tuesday to

the 35-nation International Atomic Energy Agency board. By contrast, the comments Wednesday to the same meeting by Macmanus were unusually hard edged, suggesting they were meant to signal that pressure on Iran over its nuclear activities would not diminish.

Without having to pay heed to Russia and China — countries in the six-power group that are traditionally softer on Iran than Washington — Macmanus concentrated on expressing the U.S. view of Iran's alleged failure to meet its international obligations and diminish concerns that it wants nuclear weapons. Iran denies any such aspi-

rations. But it hid its enrichment program for years and is rapidly expanding it, prompting suspicions that it was less interested in using it to make reactor fuel and more in its other use — producing fissile warhead material.

The IAEA also suspects that Tehran worked secretly on nuclear weapons, basing its assessment mostly on intelligence from the U.S., Israel and West European nations. Tehran says the intelligence is faked and refuses to allow the IAEA to resume a probe of the allegations until details of how that should proceed are worked out — a stipulation the West dismisses as a delaying tactic. □

A day of tears after Chavez death

PAUL HAVEN

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— By the hundreds of thousands, Hugo Chavez's tearful supporters carried their dead president through streets still plastered with his smiling image, an epic farewell to a larger-than-life leader remembered simply as "our commander." In a display of raw, and at times, unruly emotion, generations of Venezuelans, many dressed in the red of Chavez's socialist party, filled Caracas' streets Wednesday to remember the man who dominated their country for 14 years before succumbing to cancer.

Chavez's flag-draped coffin floated over hundreds of thousands of supporters as it made its way atop an open hearse on a seven-hour journey to a military academy in the capital, where it will lie in state. Mourners, many of them weeping, lined the streets or walked with the casket, which followed the lead of a grim drum major dressed in Chavez's trademark red. Mourners shouted out "nuestro comandante" — "our commander," in English — as the coffin passed. But even amid the mass outpouring of grief, questions about the country's future could not be put off for long, with worries amplified by the government's lack of regard for the letter of the constitution, and the military's eagerness to choose political sides.

Vice President Nicolas Maduro, the late president's hand-picked successor, and Bolivian President Evo Morales, one of his staunchest allies, mingled with the crowd, at one point falling to the ground in the jostle of bodies pushing in every direction. Military officers and Cabinet members ringed the president's coffin, stone-faced with grief.

Other mourners pumped their fists and held aloft images of the late president, amid countless waving yellow, blue and red Venezuelan flags.

"The fight goes on! Chavez lives!" the mourners shouted in unison, many through eyes red from crying late into the night. Chavez's bereaved mother, Elena Frias de Chavez, leaned against her son's casket, while a priest read a prayer

"I am not happy that he has died, but I can't be sad either," said Delia Ramirez, a 32-year-old accountant who stayed away from the procession. "This man sowed hatred and division among Venezuelans." Even as Chavistas said

of state is forced to leave office within three years of his election. Chavez was re-elected only in October. But Chavez anointed Maduro for that role, and the vice president has assumed the mantle even as the government announced he would represent the ruling socialist party in the presidential vote.

Some took to Twitter to denounce the move, citing Article 233 of the constitution, which establishes Cabello as the rightful president. The military also appears to be showing firm support for Maduro, despite a constitutional mandate that it play no role in politics. In a late-night tweet, Venezuelan state television said Defense Minister Adm. Diego Molero had pledged military support for Maduro's candidacy against likely opposition candidate Henrique Capriles, raising concern among critics about the fairness of the vote.

Capriles, the 40-year-old governor of Miranda state who lost to Chavez in October, was conciliatory in a televised address Tuesday. "This is not the moment to highlight what separates us," Capriles said. "This is not the hour for differences; it is the hour for union, it is the hour for peace."

Other opposition leaders were more critical of the military stance. "When all Venezuela wants unity and peace, and a climate of respect between Venezuelans predominates, they're contrasted by what's unacceptable, the declarations of the minister of defense, that are, besides false, unconstitutional," said Ramon Guillermo Aveledo, executive secretary of the opposition coalition. If elected, Maduro would still face a stiff challenge replacing the ultra-charismatic Chavez, who parlayed a folksy nationalism and stiff resolve into a virtual one-man government, maintaining support among the poor despite food shortages, rampant crime and inflation topping 20 percent. □



Venezuela's Vice President Nicolas Maduro raises his fist next to Bolivia's President Evo Morales as they walk along the coffin containing the remains of President Hugo Chavez in Caracas, Venezuela, Wednesday, March 6, 2013.

(AP Photo/Rodrigo Abd)

before the procession left the military hospital where Chavez died Tuesday at age 58. His funeral is scheduled for Friday.

"I feel so much pain. So much pain," said Yamile Gil, a 38-year-old housewife. "We never wanted to see our president like this. We will always love him."

Others who bitterly opposed Chavez's take-no-prisoners brand of socialism said they were sorry about his death, but hopeful it would usher in a less confrontational, more business-friendly era in this major oil-producing country. Under his leadership, the state expropriated key industries, raised taxes on the rich and forced many opponents into exile.

their goodbyes, a sense of foreboding gripped the country as it awaited word on what might come next. Many Venezuelans, fearful of possible violence, stocked up on food and fuel as the country pondered whether the former paratrooper's socialist agenda would survive him, and for how long.

The 1999 constitution that Chavez himself pushed through mandates that elections be called within 30 days, but Chavez's top lieutenants have not always stuck to the letter of the law. The charter clearly states that the speaker of the National Assembly, in this case Diosdado Cabello, should become interim president if a head

Bahamas probe deaths of two men in custody

JEFF TODD

Associated Press

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP)

— Authorities in the Bahamas are investigating the deaths of two men being held in police custody and have suspended six officers, police said Wednesday.

Pathologists found that Aaron Rolle, 20, died from hemorrhaging and a ruptured intestine caused by blunt force trauma to the chest. Rolle had been arrested on charges of breaking into a home and died Feb. 9 at a police station.

Pathologists determined that Jamie Smith, 35, died from asphyxiation the day before at a different police station. Smith had been arrested on charges of attempted armed robbery.

The deaths have angered many Bahamians, and dozens of protesters gathered Wednesday outside Parliament in the capital of Nassau to demand action amid accusations of police brutality.

Among them was Earla Dorch-Smith, Jamie Smith's mother.

"He walked in there a healthy person. He has never had any problems with breathing," she said. "He should not die like that, and I won't allow his death to be in vain."

Police Commissioner Ellison Greenslade has not issued a statement and did not return requests for comment.

Anthony Ferguson, assistant police commissioner, also declined comment. "I don't know what the commission will do," he said. "At this point, I can say nothing further."

The human rights group Family of All Murder Victims helped organize the protest outside Parliament, with demonstrators holding signs and screaming slogans as politicians entered a session at the House of Assembly.

"These families want the truth," said Khansi Gibson, the group's director. □



Women's Day celebrated every day at Caribbean Queen



ORANJESTAD – The world will be observing International Women's Day on March 8th, however here in Aruba Women's Day is acknowledged every day at Caribbean Queen, a stylish fashion and accessory store at the Palm Beach Plaza Mall.

In honor of the important day, the Minister of Economic Affairs, Social Affairs and Culture who is a woman and a mother herself, invited hundreds of local women to participate in a free-of-charge conference under the slogan Strong Leadership, Strong Women, Strong World.

Empowering women is exactly what managing director Jodi Tobman had in mind when she opened Caribbean Queen at the end of 2011, adding that jewel of a store to her already well-established chain of

Salamander Group shops. Jodi has been living on the island for many years and observed first-hand the rampant creativity of the women of Aruba, as every Carnival season, the sewing machines and glue guns come out and a creative frenzy ensues wherein color, texture, and whimsy are uniquely combined, resulting in impressive head-dresses and stunning costumes. She also observed that throughout the year, talented local artists make jewelry and other goods, selling them at weekend craft markets or giving them away as gifts to family and friends. As she was eager to support these artistic endeavors and foster entrepreneurial spirit, Jodi decided to feature the handcrafted work of local female artists at her store. Each month, a new "Carib-

bean Queen" is crowned, her work showcased and appreciated.

To date Caribbean Queen has displayed and promoted recycled copper and sea-glass jewelry by Belinda de Veer, hand blown glass jewelry ensembles by Anita Otilia Hugen, eclectic mosaic pieces by Omaira Silva, hand-blown glass ornaments and jewelry by Marijan Abath, silk-screen prints on canvas by Eliza Lejuez Peters, ceramic jewelry and miniature sculptures by Elizabeth van Brede, rope-stringed beads and baubles by Daphne Agius Cesareo-Lejuez, sterling silver and semi-precious stone jewelry by Candy Rasmijn-Reino, twisted colored wire pieces by Massiel Genser, ornate handbags by Marcia Solognier, photography by Annemiek van Vliet, hand-made fashion earrings and bracelets by Anchie Malmberg, leather, wire, glass, gems and precious metal pieces by Omaira Toro, stringed glass beads by Gabriela Gonzalez, and upcycled rubber belts and purses by Carina Molina.

And the Caribbean Queen program goes on to continuously feature a new artisan each month in addition to making quarterly donations, under the Tik-

kun Olam program, to artistic development here. Tikkun Olam, the repair of the world, is a Salamander Group core value, and the store designates a percentage of all sales to local not-for-profit foundations dedicated to artistic endeavors. Visit the store at the Caribbean Palm Beach Mall.

We're confident that the accessories created by our honored queens will not only delight you, but will also inspire you and perhaps also inspire other fellow "daughters of the Aruban soil" to explore their own artistic talents. Happy International Women's Day! In Women We Trust! □



Mediator assists meeting held between AAA and STA

ORANJESTAD – Aruba Airport Authority N.V. (AAA) held a meeting with labor union STA in the presence of mediator of Aruba Mr. Anselmo Pontilius regarding the procedures for Shift Change.

It was a good meeting, and at the end only 2 issues were still pending. AAA as employer defines the shift schedules.

To accommodate and facilitate the shift workers AAA allows under certain con-

ditions that the employees can change shifts amongst each other.

These conditions were already introduced in 2002. AAA has recently evaluated the practice of shift changing and the 2002 conditions and last week decided to broaden the rules.

According to STA, its members do not agree with 2 of the new conditions: (1) It's only allowed to change 3 shifts per month instead of

unlimited shift changes and (2) it's allowed to change shifts with another shift and not with an off day.

These 2 issues are still pending for discussion in the next meeting that will be held next week Tuesday March 12, 2013.

Before this meeting, STA will reunite with its members to discuss what was agreed on during the meeting and also come up with suggestions to discuss with AAA in next week's meeting.

AAA is open to re-evaluate issue #1 which regards the amount of shift changes allowed, but for issue #2 there isn't much space for discussion. It's the management's opinion that shift changing is for the changing of shifts, that means that you change one shift for another one.

In practice of the last years, employees have changed shifts with a colleague without the colleague taking over the shift.

This results in an unwanted situation. Regarding the limitation of the amount of shift changes permitted per month, - 3 according to the new rule – fact is that in practice there are a very small amount of employees that change more than 3 shifts per month, therefore AAA doesn't think that this should be a problem for shift workers.

AAA will remain pending for the suggestions by STA in the next meeting. □

Incentive Groups Enjoy Amazonia Hospitality

Palm Beach – The Gamber-Johnson group, and the Siemens group both on corporate motivational experiences on the island, enjoyed the hospitality of Amazonia Churrascaria for just one fabulous night. The Gamber Johnson group members on the island for a Reseller Award Trip, staying at the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa hail from the US and Canada. The SIEMENS group enjoying their stay on Aruba as a reward for stellar perfor-



mances, staying at Westin Aruba Resort, hail from the USA.

All guests reported that their companies had chosen Aruba for their corporate events because they've heard of the friendly people, beauti-

ful beaches and delicious gourmet food... and now that they are here they have confirmed it, gracious people, great beaches and spectacular culinary experiences, such as the one they have enjoyed at Amazonia Churrascaria! □



**Beauty
On The
Beach**

**Marianela
Parra**

And family are vacationing at Casa del Mar. This is her 20th consecutive year on the Island making her virtually a local.

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Ronde van Aruba 2013 is ready to hit the road!

ORANJESTAD - Everything is ready for the 21st edition of the 'Ronde van Aruba', the preparations are going according to plan and satisfactorily. Until the moment we received this information, 94 participants were inscribed on this event, which according to Korporaal Stolk, one of the 4 Sport-Instructeurs in charge of the organization, is the 2nd biggest annual event of the Marinierskazerne Savaneta, after their well known Opendag on the 1st of May.

On the Category of Individual Runners there are 2 participants, 3 Duo-Teams, and 26 Relay-Teams (4 participants). On the Relay-Teams there are 3 female teams, 2 from Curaçao (landmatch) and 2 coming from The Netherlands. It is important to remark that the Ronde van Aruba's distance is 75 kilometer long (46.6 miles),

those participating in the Relay-Teams will divide the distance among them 4 team members. Duo-Teams among them 2,

disabled participants on prior editions of the Ronde van Aruba. He emphasized however, that disabled participants are also

Also, the minimum age to participate is 15, and inscriptions for the Ronde van Aruba 2013 are closed now, but you can start practicing from now to compete on the RvA 2014! The Ronde van Aruba starts Friday 8th of March at the Marinierskazerne Savaneta at 11:00 PM; the official opening will be in charge of the Minister of Health and Sports Dr Richard Visser, and the race duration is programmed to be 9 hours.

Route: Starts at Savaneta and there will be 7 posts: Boca Grandi, Ayo, Alto Vista, Malmok, APA Building, Parkietenbos (ARUGAS), and back to Marinierskazerne Savaneta where there will have some amenities available such as water, EHBO, massage, y snacks for the participants. The route will be escorted by the Police body, and

there will be Red Cross personnel and an Ambulance ready, to guarantee immediate attention in case it should be needed.

2 dj's will cheer up the runners at the arrival (Saturday morning) between 06:00 AM and 09:00 AM, one at the finish and the other one at the gate of the Marinierskazerne Savaneta. Family and friends are welcome to cheer up the runners! □



and Individual participants must complete the total distance.

Regarding the possibility of having disabled participants, Mr. Stolk says that according to his knowledge, there has been no

welcome to participate, regardless if they use a prosthesis; which is a different story in the case of a participant pushing a disabled person on a stroller, for the grade of difficulty of the race.



BONUS



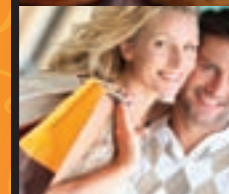
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CASINO AND SHOPS

Stellaris Casino Appoints Two Management Positions

- **Henk Reeberg Casino Slots Operations Manager and Elvis Gomez Casino Cage Manager**

PALM BEACH, ARUBA (March 3, 2013) – The Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino proudly announces the promotions of Henk Reeberg to Casino Slots Operations Manager and Elvis Gomez to Casino Cage Manager at the Stellaris Casino.

In his new position Henk will be in charge of the overall operations of the Casino Slots department, ensuring the corporate compliance and local gaming regulations, monitoring performance of the Slots department and the daily operations of his team. Elvis will oversee all the daily operations of the Casino Cage department, maintaining and controlling all cage handlings and inventories of the casino. Henk started his career with the Stellaris Casino in

August of 2006 as a Casino Income Auditor, a position he held for over three years. In February of 2010, he was promoted to the Casino Accounting Supervisor.

After one year Henk switched over to the Casino Slots department, where he was appointed to the position of Assistant Manager of the Casino Slot Operations, overseeing the Casino Slots department and achieved impressive results with his team for the casino. Henk was nominated Manager of the Quarter in 2012.

Elvis began his Marriott career in Accounting as an Accounts Payable Clerk on February 24, 2009. In March of 2012 he joined the Food and Beverage team and was promoted to Food and Beverage Storeroom Supervisor, where he succeeded to achieve an admirable level of zero variance in the receiving process and daily op-



Henk Reeberg (Casino Slots Operations Manager) Robert Guidice (Casino General Manager) and Elvis Gomez (Casino Cage Manager).

erations. Since September 2012, Elvis has played a key role at the food storeroom overseeing the purchasing process as well as playing an active leadership role

during the food storeroom renovation. Elvis was recognized as Marriott's Associate of the Year 2011 and won the Shoco Award for Supervisor of the Year 2012.

The Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino congratulates Henk and Elvis and wishes them the best of luck as they take on their new responsibilities. □

Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "from the pier to your plate!"



ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fisherman of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad. Driftwood owner Herby

Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words "fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on 12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm.



Winners of Intl. LUHRS Marina Group Blue Marlin Release Tournament 2009



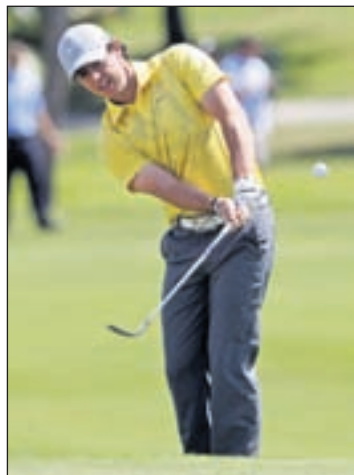
Catch your own dinner

A charter includes: captain, mate all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included.

You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to www.driftwoodaruba.com

Driftwood Restaurant. This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their

extended menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 4-course menu for just \$25.95 **Charter deep sea fishing rates:** \$400 - 1/2 day • \$760 - full day. Rates per boat Max. 6 people. **Driftwood Restaurant** Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant; Klipstraat #12, Downtown Oranjestad. Tel: (297) 583 2515 www.driftwoodaruba.com Open hours: every day, from 5pm till 10:30pm. Sunday Closed.



Rory McIlroy, of Northern Ireland, tees off at the eighth hole during practice at the Cadillac Golf Championship, in Doral, Fla., Wednesday March 6, 2013.
Associated Press

Attention now follows McIlroy to the course

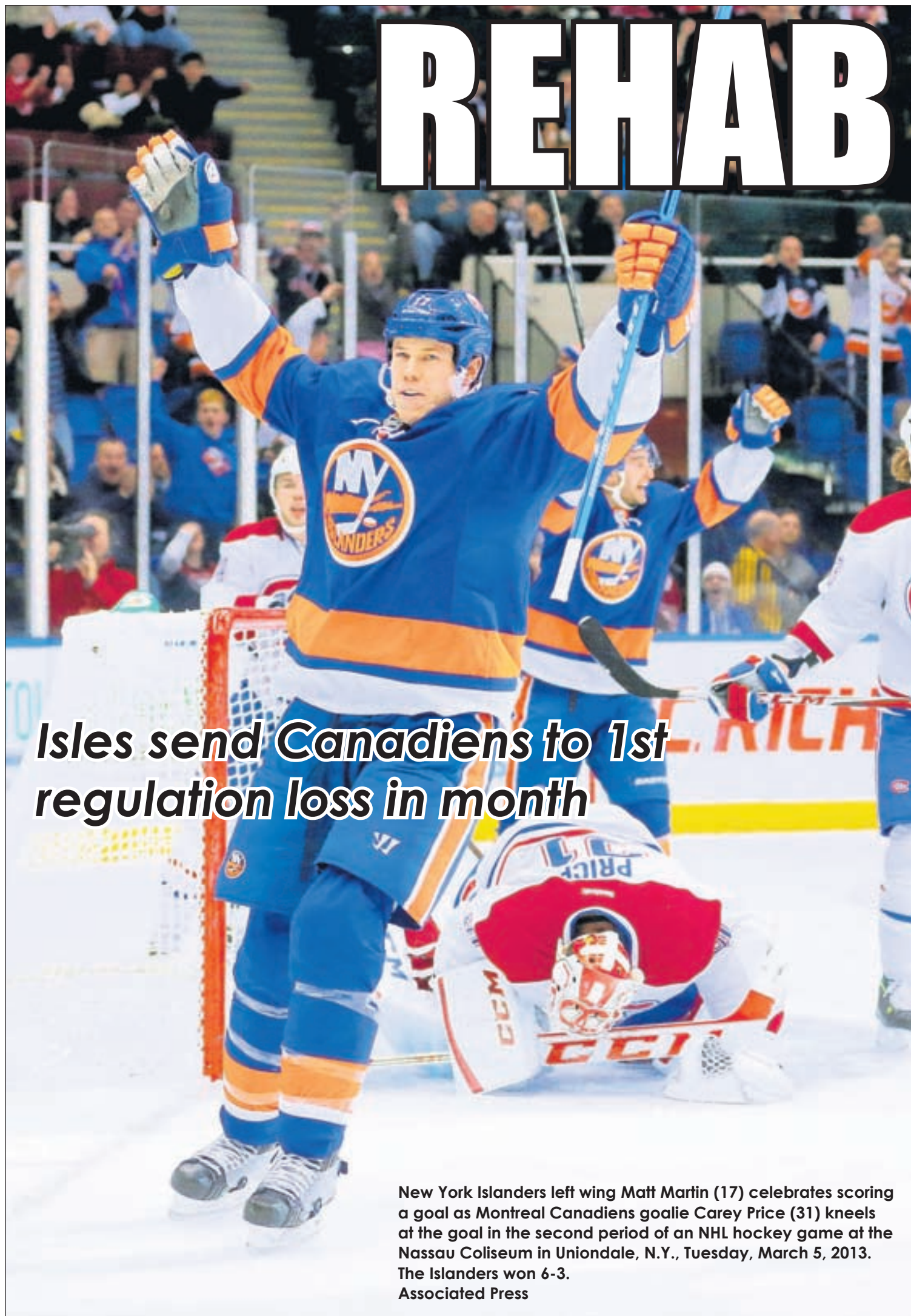
DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

DORAL, Florida (AP) — As if quitting in the middle of a golf tournament didn't bring Rory McIlroy enough attention, it might not let up on the golf course.

McIlroy has been going through damage control the last five days after his abrupt departure when he was 7-over par through eight holes and decided to call it quits at the Honda Classic. After an apology to Sports Illustrated, he faced the media on Wednesday and took all the blame.

"I actually think in the long run, Friday will be a blessing in disguise," he said, referring to the day he withdrew last week. "It was like it just sort of released a valve, and all that pressure that I've been putting on myself just went away. And I was like, 'Just go out and have fun. It's not life or death out there."

Continued on page 18



Isles send Canadiens to 1st regulation loss in month

New York Islanders left wing Matt Martin (17) celebrates scoring a goal as Montreal Canadiens goalie Carey Price (31) kneels at the goal in the second period of an NHL hockey game at the Nassau Coliseum in Uniondale, N.Y., Tuesday, March 5, 2013. The Islanders won 6-3.
Associated Press

Kuznetsova wins opener at Indian Wells

INDIAN WELLS, California (AP) — Svetlana Kuznetsova, making a comeback after six months on the sidelines due to a right knee injury, took another step forward Wednesday with a 6-3, 6-1 victory over Andrea Hlavackova in the opening round of the BNP Paribas Open tennis tournament at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden.

Kuznetsova, twice a Grand Slam champion and two times a runner-up in this \$10 million event, did not play following Wimbledon last season due to the injury and the former world No. 2 was ranked No. 85 on January 6. She is No. 46 now thanks in large part to quarterfinal showings at Sydney, Australia, and in the Australian Open and can continue her climb with a win over No. 18 Jelena Jankovic in the second round.

In contrast to Kuznetsova, opening day wasn't a good day for the Americans. Mallory Burdette, a 22-year-old qualifier from Macon, Ga., was the only one of the quartet in ac-



Svetlana Kuznetsova, of Russia, returns a shot to Andrea Hlavackova, of the Czech Republic, at the BNP Paribas Open tennis tournament, Wednesday, March 6, 2013, in Indian Wells, Calif.
Associated Press

cans. Mallory Burdette, a 22-year-old qualifier from Macon, Ga., was the only one of the quartet in ac-

tion early Wednesday to advance to the second round, and she did it by beating another American,

38-year-old Jill Craybas, 6-3, 6-1.

Vania King, 24, started well by winning a first-set tie-

breaker from Silvia Soler-Espinosa of Spain, but the Spanish Olympian rolled through the next two sets for a 6-7 (7), 6-2, 6-1 win. Lauren Davis, a 19-year-old Floridian, was a 6-2, 6-0 loser to 21-year-old Simona Halep of Romania.

Ksenia Pervak of Kazakhstan, No. 93, sprang the first upset of the tournament by toppling Nol. 42 Zheng Jie of China, 6-1, 6-2. Johanna Larsson of Sweden, Chanelle Scheepers of South Africa and Olga Govortsova of Belarus were other first day winners.

The women's first round continues and the men's first round gets underway Thursday. All 32 seeded players in both the men's and women's fields have opening round byes.

Victoria Azarenka and Novak Djokovic are the reigning champions. Djokovic, a perfect 12-0 this year, is seeking his third straight Indian Wells title. □

McIlroy

Continued from page 17

It's only a game.'

"I had sort of forgotten that this year."

The world's No. 1 player won't be able to escape the spotlight when the Cadillac Championship gets under way on Thursday at Doral.

This World Golf Championship tends to group the top players in the world ranking, meaning McIlroy gets to spend the opening two rounds with Tiger Woods and Luke Donald. And while McIlroy's behavior was questioned last week, it's his game that has been the most curious.

He played with Woods when both made their 2013 debut in Abu Dhabi, and the 23-year-old from Northern Ireland had rounds of 75-75 to miss the cut. Woods also missed the cut that week because of a two-shot penalty, though he flew halfway around the world the following week and won at Torrey Pines for his 75th career win.

McIlroy had a sloppy per-

formance on Dove Mountain and lost in the first round of the Match Play Championship, and then made it through only 26 holes at PGA National. He lost track of the hours he put in at The Bear's Club over the weekend, hopeful that he can sort out the problems in his swing. His expectations for the week?

"Just work on my swing," he said as he walked out the door after his press conference. "Try to get my swing back."

Woods is coming off a mediocre performance in the Honda Classic, failing to break par in any of the four rounds on his way to a tie for 37th. He is a three-time winner at Doral and had never finished out of the top 10 until he withdrew after 11 holes last year with tightness in his left Achilles tendon.

Woods can appreciate the scrutiny McIlroy faces. He also had some sound advice.

Keep going.

"We play week after week," Woods said after



Rory McIlroy, of Northern Ireland, tees off at the eighth hole during practice at the Cadillac Golf Championship, in Doral, Fla., Wednesday March 6, 2013.
Associated Press

nine holes of practice on the Blue Monster. "Once one week ends, you have to move on the next one. And we're on a different venue and different golf course. For me over the

years, I've just put it aside and moved on, whether it was good or bad, whether I won the tournament or missed the cut, whatever it may be. You move on and get ready for the next

event."

With each week, the Masters gets closer.

Only a dozen players in the 65-man field at Doral are not yet in the Masters, so it's an important week for the likes of Geoff Ogilvy, Fredrik Jacobson, Richard Sterne and Charles Howell III, all of whom are trying to establish themselves in the top 50 when the final cut-off arrives at the end of the month.

And for McIlroy, it's a matter of sorting out his game. He described his swing change as trying to put it back the way it was last summer, when he went on a tear at the end of the year by winning the PGA Championship for his second major, two FedEx Cup playoff events and the season finale in Dubai to capture the money title on the two biggest tours.

He is getting close.

"We found it," he said. "It's just a matter of getting comfortable with it. When I take the club away and try to put it in the right position, it feels very alien to me right now. □

Love of sport, not money, draws Iditarod mushers

RACHEL D'ORO
Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)

— No one who races sled dogs is going to get filthy rich any time soon, even if they win Alaska's 1,000-mile (1,600-kilometer) Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. The prize for winning the sport's premier race is only \$50,400 and a new 2013 Dodge Ram pickup truck. That doesn't even cover the annual dog food bill for many competitive mushers, who keep dozens of dogs in professional kennels geared to breed the sturdiest, fastest runners.

Many mushers rely on sponsors, part-time work and prizes from smaller races. Others work in seasonal jobs in tourism, construction and commercial fishing. They skimp on luxuries — one couple even hunts moose to keep food on the table.

It's all to maintain a passion that is being played out this week in the Iditarod, which kicked off with a ceremonial start in Anchorage on Saturday. The competitive portion of the race started Sunday in Willow 50 miles (80 kilometers) to the north. "I've got a hundred sled dogs. Each dog eats well over \$1,000 worth of food every year," said defend-

ing champion Dallas Seavey, who was in 11th place Wednesday. "The \$50,000 cash prize covers half my food bill for the year, and that's when you win the biggest race in the sport."

Mushers can pick up a little cash along the way to the finish line in the frontier town of Nome on Alaska's wind-scoured western coast.

They are rewarded for being the first to reach certain villages dotting the trail — including \$3,000 in gold nuggets for being the first to arrive at the halfway checkpoint at the ghost town of Iditarod. Earlier in the race, a \$500 air travel credit goes to the first musher to arrive at McGrath. That honor went to veteran musher Aaron Burmeister, who pulled into McGrath at 6:29 p.m. and left three minutes later.

Burmeister, of Nome, was in sixth place Wednesday as he took his mandatory 24-hour rest at the next checkpoint in the village of Takotna.

In the lead was four-time champion Lance Mackey, who blew out of Ophir 23 miles (37 kilometers) past Takotna at 5:45 a.m. Wednesday to begin the 80-mile (129-kilometer) run



Musher Anna Berington negotiates a steep drop off in the trail after departing the Finger Lake checkpoint in Alaska during the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race on Monday, Mar. 4, 2013.

Associated Press

to the next checkpoint at the ghost town of Iditarod. Mackey has not yet taken his 24-hour layover.

Before the race, Mackey said he has two major sponsors, one for dog food and another for clothing. The Fairbanks musher gets kibble and clothing from them. But he has to scrape by for the money he needs to maintain his 80-dog ken-

nel and pay his dog handlers.

To do it right takes him at least \$5,000 a month, he said. He hasn't won the Iditarod since 2010, and has seen the number of sponsors drop off. His dogs used to command high prices when he sold them. Now he can't give them away, he said.

Mackey, who also has won

the 1,000-mile (1,600-kilometer) Yukon Quest International Sled Dog Race four times, is doing what he loves, but doesn't expect to ever acquire great wealth from it. No one does.

"There's people like myself that try to make a living off of racing dogs," Mackey said. "I've been as successful as anybody, and I'm still as broke as ever."

Veteran musher Aliy Zirkle, who placed second in the Iditarod last year, shares adult racing dogs with her husband, Allen Moore, who won the Yukon Quest in February. Both are running in the Iditarod. Zirkle, who was in seventh place Wednesday, chose the top 16 dogs for her team while Moore is running a second team, more for the training of the dogs than to compete.

Their dogs get robust support from corporate and individual sponsors. Zirkle and Moore also strive to live debt-free. They built their own home in the interior Alaska community of Two Rivers. To keep food on the table, they hunt for moose each fall and have a garden in the summer.

"We are not broke," Zirkle said. "But we don't live high on the hog." □

Talansky wins 3rd stage of Paris-Nice in sprint

BRIOUDE, France (AP)

— American cyclist Andrew Talansky held off six riders in a sprint finish to win the third stage of the Paris-Nice race Wednesday and take the race leader's yellow jersey.

The small breakaway group attacked late and the Garmin-Sharp rider finished a bike's length ahead of Davide Malacarne of France, with Gorka Izaguirre of Spain in third. All three had the same time of 4 hours, 6 minutes,

15 seconds over the undulating 170.5-kilometer (106-mile) course from Chatel-Guyon to Brioude. □



Andrew Talansky of the U.S. wins the third leg of the Paris-Nice cycling race, between Chatel Guyon and Brioude, central France, Wednesday, March 6, 2013.

Associated Press

Omega Pharma wins 1st stage of Tirreno-Adriatico

DONORATICO, Italy (AP) — Mark Cavendish took the early lead of the Tirreno-Adriatico after his Omega Pharma-QuickStep won the team time trial on a rainy opening day on Wednesday.

Omega Pharma-QuickStep finished the 16.9-kilometer stage in 19 minutes, 24 seconds, beating Movistar by 11 seconds. Cadel Evans' BMC Racing team was third, 16 seconds behind.

Cavendish will wear the blue jersey for crossing the line first, ahead of teammates Tony Martin, Michal Kwiatkowski, Zdenek Stybar and Niki Terpstra.

"One name is a huge reason why we did so well today: Tony Martin," Cavendish said. "He did the majority of the work, but the guys today, all of them, were just incredible. ... It was actually quite relaxing. Everyone knew what they had to do."

Thursday's stage is a 232-kilometer flat route from San Vincenzo to Indicator.

The race ends on Tuesday with an individual time trial in San Benedetto del Tronto. □



Cuba's lefffielder Alfredo Despaigne hits a three-run homer off Japan's pitcher Takeru Imamura in the eighth inning of their World Baseball Classic first round game in Fukuoka, Japan, Wednesday, March 6, 2013.
Associated Press

World Baseball Classic Cuba beats Japan 6-3

FUKUOKA, Japan (AP) — Alfredo Despaigne hit a three-run homer in the eighth inning as Cuba beat two-time defending champion Japan 6-3 Wednesday to finish first in Group A of the World Baseball Classic.

Despaigne's home run off reliever Takeru Imamura at Fukuoka Dome put the game out of reach and allowed Cuba to improve to 3-0 and set up a second-round showdown with Group B runner-up Netherlands on Friday.

"This is very satisfying," Despaigne said. "This is an important win over Japan that was made possible by making an effort every day. Japan is the two-time champion and you have to prepare very well to play against Japan."

Yasmany Tomas hit a solo homer to left in the bottom of the third to give Cuba a 1-0 lead. Frederich Cepeda doubled in another run in the fourth and Jose Abreu made it 3-0 on a single to left in the sixth that scored Luis Rivera from third.

Japan, which scored three

runs in the ninth, will face Group B winner Taiwan in the second round at Tokyo Dome.

Japan continues to struggle for offense without its top players from Major League Baseball. The three runs in the ninth were more a result of poor pitching by Cuba's relievers, who issued three walks in the final inning.

"We are only looking forward to the next round," Japan manager Koji Yamamoto said. "Although some of our players are not hitting, our pitchers are doing very well."

Cuba, which routed China 12-0 on Monday, continued to display the type of offensive power that makes the 2006 runner-up a title contender this year.

The win was Cuba's first in four WBC games against Japan.

Cuba starter Wilber Perez picked up the win after holding Japan scoreless over three innings. Japan starter Kenji Otonari gave up one run on two hits in three innings to take the loss. □

Blackhawks extend points streak with win over Wild



New York Rangers' Marc Staal (18) reacts after being hit by a puck during the third period of an NHL hockey game against the Philadelphia Flyers on Tuesday, March 5, 2013, in New York. Rangers goalie Henrik Lundqvist, of Sweden, watches. The Rangers won the game 4-2.
Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — The Chicago Blackhawks set a franchise record with their 10th consecutive victory and extended their points streak to 29 games with a 5-3 win against the Minnesota Wild on Tuesday night. NHL Capsules Bryan Bickell scored twice in the first period and Patrick Kane added a big goal in the third as Chicago (20-0-3) remained the only team in the NHL without a regulation loss. It also snapped a tie with the 1977-78 Montreal Canadiens for the second-longest points streak in league history.

Ryan Suter scored his first goal with Minnesota, sending a power-play slap shot past a screened Corey Crawford in the third period. Kyle Brodziak then poked his own rebound to get the Wild within one at 10:32. But Kane beat Darcy Kuemper just 61 seconds later.

Brandon Saad had a goal and two assists for the Blackhawks, who host the Colorado Avalanche on Wednesday night.

CAPITALS 4, BRUINS 3, OT

WASHINGTON (AP) — Eric Fehr scored 37 seconds into overtime, and the Washington Capitals rallied from a three-goal, first-period

deficit to beat the Boston Bruins.

Pinched by two defenders, Fehr was falling forward as he got off the shot that hit the upper right post and went in, giving the Capitals their seventh win in 10 games as they attempt to climb out of the lower echelons of the NHL standings. Wojtek Wolski and Mike Ribeiro also scored, and Tomas Kundratek got his first NHL goal for the Bruins.

A short-handed penalty shot by Brad Marchand, an even-strength goal by Zdeno Chara and a power-play tally from Dougie Hamilton gave Boston a 3-0 lead in the first period.

RANGERS 4, FLYERS 2

NEW YORK (AP) — Rick Nash snapped a third-period tie and then added an insurance goal as the New York Rangers held on to beat the Philadelphia Flyers for their third win in a row.

Nash fired a shot that sneaked under the right arm of goalie Ilya Bryzgalov 2:50 into the third to give New York its second lead of the game. He doubled the advantage to 4-2 with 8:18 left.

Ryan Callahan scored two first-period goals and assisted on Nash's second, and Henrik Lundqvist made 23 saves for the Rangers,

who played without Brad Richards. New York lost key defenseman Marc Staal 5:45 into the third when a shot by Kimmo Timonen from the blue line clipped the stick of forward Jake Voracek and caromed up into Staal's right eye, causing a cut. Staal, who wasn't wearing a visor, squirmed on the ice and held his face before skating off. Wayne Simmonds and Voracek both scored power-play goals in the first period for Philadelphia. Bryzgalov stopped 16 shots.

LIGHTNING 5, DEVILS 2

NEWARK, New Jersey (AP) — Nate Thompson scored twice and Martin St. Louis and rookie Alexander Kilorn each had a goal and an assist as the Tampa Bay Lightning snapped a five-game losing streak.

Cory Conacher and Vincent Lecavalier each had two assists as the Lightning won for only the second time in eight games and extended the Devils' winless streak to six games (0-5-1).

Anders Lindback had 25 saves for the Lightning, surrendering late goals to Adam Henrique and Patrik Elias.

Steven Stamkos' 10-game point streak ended for Tampa Bay. □



Pierce helps Celtics top slumping 76ers 109-101



Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant (24) drives around Oklahoma City Thunder forward Kevin Durant (35) in the first quarter of an NBA basketball game in Oklahoma City, Tuesday, March 5, 2013.

Associated Press

The Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Paul Pierce had 18 points and 11 rebounds, and Avery Bradley scored 22 points to lead the Boston Celtics to a 109-101 win over the Philadelphia 76ers on Wednesday night. NBA Capsules Kevin Garnett scored 18 points to help the Celtics continued their push up the Eastern Conference standings. The Celtics entered in seventh, but were no more than two games behind the next three teams ahead in the standings. Led by Pierce, the Celtics controlled the game and

used a 9-0 run midway through the fourth quarter to seal the win. Last May, these two teams went to Game 7 of the Eastern Conference semifinals. On Wednesday, the Sixers lost for the ninth time in 10 games and are well out of the playoff race. Jrue Holiday had 18 points and 10 assists for the Sixers, and Thaddeus Young had 19 points and 10 rebounds. **Thunder 122, Lakers 105** **OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)** — Russell Westbrook had 37 points and 10 rebounds, Kevin Durant scored 26 and the Thunder held off a second-half charge.

The Thunder led from start to finish, but had their 18-point lead whittled down to five midway through the fourth quarter. Serge Ibaka, who dodged a suspension after delivering a low blow against Blake Griffin in Oklahoma City's previous game, hit a 3-pointer and Westbrook had a two-handed slam as the Thunder scored the last 12 points. Kobe Bryant ended up with 30 points after leaving the game with a right elbow injury in the first quarter. Steve Nash matched his season best with 20 points as the Lakers fell back below .500 after reaching the mark for the first time since December. Oklahoma City tied an NBA record with two turnovers. Milwaukee set the record in a game against Indiana on April 1, 2006, and Cleveland tied it in an overtime game against Portland on March 19, 2009. **Nuggets 120, Kings 113** **SACRAMENTO, California (AP)** — Ty Lawson had 24 points and Danilo Gallinari added 23 for the Nug-

gets as they won their sixth straight game. The deep and talented Nuggets used a 36-point third quarter to build a lead against the Kings that they never relinquished in winning their season-best third straight road game. They scored 70 second-half points when they shot nearly 64 percent. The streaking Nuggets have won seven of eight games, including 11 in a

row at home, where they own a 26-3 record, which ties Miami for the best mark in the NBA. Kenneth Faried had 19 points and 12 rebounds, Andre Miller scored 16 and Kosta Koufos had 15 points and eight rebounds for Denver. Marcus Thornton continued his torrid scoring of late, making five 3-pointers and getting in 32 points for the Kings. □

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 Sun & Hol 2:20 / 3:45 / 5:10 / 6:30 / 8:00 / 9:15

Miguel Céspedes Raymond Pozo

Spanish Version

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Sylvester Stallone Sung Kang

BULLET TO THE HEAD

Mon - Thurs 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20
 Fri 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20 / 11:30
 Sat 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20 / 11:30
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Óscar Barberán Fiona Glascott

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Bruce Willis Jai Courtney

A GOOD DAY TO DIE HARD

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Jason Bateman Melissa McCarthy

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Mon - Thurs 4:20 / 6:50 / 9:20
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 Sat 1:50 / 4:20 / 6:50 / 9:20 / 11:50
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Jessica Chastain Nikolaj Coster-Waldau

MAMA

Mon - Thurs 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30
 Fri 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30 / 11:55
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STARTING THURSDAY MARCH 14

JACK BLACK



“Mortality index” used to predict life expectancy

LINDSEY TANNER
AP Medical Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — Want to know your chances of dying in the next 10 years? Here are some bad signs: getting winded walking several blocks, smoking, and having trouble pushing a chair across the room. That's according to a “mortality index” developed by U.S. researchers for people older than 50.

The test scores may satisfy people's morbid curiosity, but the researchers say their 12-item index is mostly for use by doctors. It can help them decide whether costly health screenings or medical procedures are worth the risk for patients unlikely to live 10 more years.

It's best to take the test with a doctor, who can discuss what the score means in the context of patients' own medical history, the study authors say.

The index “wasn't meant as guidance about how to alter your lifestyle,” said lead author Dr. Marisa Cruz of the University of California, San Francisco.

Instead, doctors can use the results to help patients

understand the pros and cons of such things as rig-

orous diabetes treatment, colon cancer screening and tests for cervical cancer. Those may not be safe or appropriate for very sick, old people likely to die before cancer ever develops. The 12 items on the index are assigned points; fewer total points means better odds.



Dr. Marisa Cruz is the lead author of a study showing that a 12-item list of health questions can help predict chances for dying within 10 years for patients aged 50 and older.

(AP Photo/Jeff Chiu)

orous diabetes treatment, colon cancer screening and tests for cervical cancer. Those may not be safe or appropriate for very sick, old people likely to die before cancer ever develops. The 12 items on the index are assigned points; fewer total points means better odds.

— Men automatically get 2 points. In addition to that, men and women ages 60

or over get 7 points.

— Two points each: a current or previous cancer diagnosis, excluding minor skin cancers; lung disease limiting activity or requiring oxygen; heart failure; smoking; difficulty bathing; difficulty managing money because of health or memory problem; difficulty walking several blocks.

— One point each: diabetes or high blood sugar;

difficulty pushing large objects, such as a heavy chair; being thin or normal weight.

The highest, or worst, score is a 26, with a 95 percent chance of dying within 10 years. To get that, you'd have to be a man at least 85 years old with all the above conditions.

For a score of zero, which means a 3 percent chance of dying within 10 years, you'd have to be a woman younger than 60 without any of those infirmities — but at least slightly overweight.

It's hardly surprising that a sick, older person would have a much higher chance of dying than someone younger and more vigorous, and it's well known that women generally live longer than men. But why would being overweight be less risky than being of normal weight or slim?

One possible reason is that thinness in older age could be a sign of illness, Cruz said.

Other factors could also play a role, so the index should be seen as providing clues but not the gos-

pel truth, the research suggests.

The findings were published Tuesday in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Grants from the National Institute on Aging and the American Federation for Aging Research helped pay for the study.

The researchers created the index by analyzing data on almost 20,000 Americans over 50 who took part in a national health survey in 1998. They tracked the participants for 10 years. Nearly 6,000 participants died during that time.

They previously used the test to predict the risk of dying within four years. They said their new effort shows the same index can be used to predict 10-year mortality.

Dr. Stephan Fihn, a University of Washington professor of medicine, said the index seems valid and “methodologically sound.”

But he said it probably would be most accurate for the oldest patients, who don't need a scientific crystal ball to figure out their days are numbered. □

Green cleaning for humans can still sicken pets

SUE MANNING
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — As the time nears for spring cleaning and companies offer more environmentally friendly alternatives to toxic cleaners, veterinarians say pet owners should keep in mind that what's green to a human can be dangerous — even deadly — to animals.

“People expose their animals without even realizing the risk,” said Dr. Karl Jandrey, who works in the emergency and critical care units at the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital at the University of California, Davis. “That's the most common thing that happens when you come to our emergency room — the clients put their pets at risk because they were unaware of how significant the damage could be.”

Most household cleaners are safe if used as directed on labels, but pet owners who make their own cleansers using natural ingredients don't have the warnings or instructions that come with commercial products.

Cats, for example, can get stomachaches from essential oils added for orange, lemon or peppermint scents in cleaners, said Dr. Camille DeClementi, a senior toxicologist at the Animal Poison Control Center run by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in Urbana, Illinois.

Most commercial green products are safe for animals, DeClementi said, but owners should still exercise the same precautions as with chemical alternatives, such as keeping pets away from an area being

cleaned, not using sprays directly on a pet and making sure that dogs don't chew on the products.

If a product says “Keep out of reach of children,” keep it away from pets too, DeClementi said.

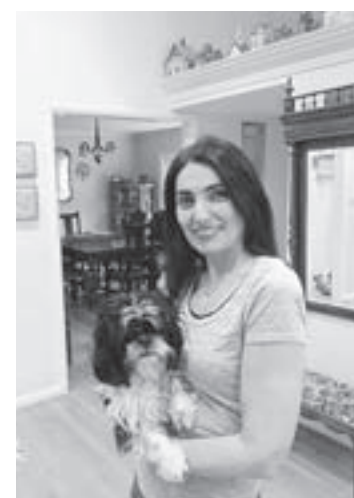
Nancy Guberti, a New York City nutritionist and healthy lifestyle coach for the past 15 years, said some products will say green when they are not.

“Natural means nothing. The consumer has to be educated.

It's all about awareness,” she said.

Extra care also should be taken when cleaning around a pet's area, such as its toys or bedding, the experts say. Don't use fabric softener sheets that contain cationic detergents because they will give your pet — especially cats — stomach distress,

DeClementi said, referring to a type of chemical soap that kills bacteria.



Nancy Guberti is seen with her dog Flower at her house in New York City.
(AP Photo/Courtesy Nancy Guberti)

Such detergents and soaps, normally associated with helping to get clothes clean and fresh-smelling,

can have chemicals that can sicken humans and pets alike.

Guberti switched to green cleaners out of necessity when her youngest son developed a liver disorder and many allergies. Guberti said the whole family became green — even their family's 6-year-old Shih Tzu, Flower, because her son can't hold Flower “if she is full of toxic chemicals or perfumes.”

She recalled how she took the dog to a groomer for the first time, and Flower came out covered in perfume. Guberti washed her again at home, and now she brings her own bottles to the groomer.

“I have a bottle of shampoo and a bottle of conditioner with her name on it. I always remind them: ‘No perfumes whatsoever,’” Guberti said. □

Roku adds headphones to latest online video player

MICHAEL LIEDTKE

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Roku is plugging headphones and several other new features into its latest set-top box for streaming Internet video to TVs, a move that amplifies its effort to upstage Apple's better-selling player.

The Roku 3 box going on sale Wednesday also includes a more powerful search engine to find movies, TV shows and music more quickly and new menu for perusing the more than 750 online services available through the device. The new model will be sold for \$100, initially only at Roku's website and Amazon.com. Next month, it will expand into other retail outlets, including Costco and Best Buy stores. Prices for older Roku models with less horsepower start at \$50.

The new player is the first update to Roku's line of set-top boxes since July 2011. In the interim, Roku last year introduced a finger-shaped device that plugs directly into high-definition ports, much like a flash drive fits into a personal computer's USB drive.

The ability to listen to video and music on headphones will probably be the Roku 3's biggest attraction, especially for households that already own one of the company's earlier boxes.



This product image provided by Roku shows the Roku 3.

Associated Press

Ear buds are included with the Roku 3, although any pair of headphones can be plugged into a jack on the side of the device's remote control. Just as with the set-top box itself, a Wi-Fi connection is required for the headphones to work. It's a feature unavailable on the Apple TV player that poses the main competition to Roku's streaming devices. The Roku 3 introduces new navigation tools that will be automatically sent to previous versions of the box in a software update later this year. The redesign displays more information by stacking the channels vertically in rows of three instead of in single, horizontal row in

the middle of the screen. The makeover means nine channel choices can be seen at a time instead of just five under the old format.

The new box also boasts a faster processor than previous models, an upgrade likely to appeal to people who want to use the device to play online video games on their TVs.

Although it's still a small company, Roku Inc. has emerged as a significant player in the steadily growing market for Internet video since it introduced its first set-top box nearly five years ago. Originally conceived within Netflix Inc. as a cheap and easy

way to get Internet video on to flat-panel TVs, Roku now offers a wide array of entertainment options. Besides Netflix's Internet video subscription service, Roku boxes also connect to alternatives from Amazon.com and Hulu.com, as well as a variety of online music stations.

Most of the top Internet video services can also be seen through Apple TV, a set-top box that's similar to Roku's device. But Apple TV is better known, largely because it's made and sold by a technology powerhouse that operates more than 400 stores scattered throughout the world while the Roku players are

made by a small, privately held company.

Although Apple Inc. doesn't provide precise figures, CEO Tim Cook has indicated to analysts that the company has sold more than 10 million of its streaming boxes. That includes more than 2 million Apple TV players sold during the final three months last year, up from about 1.4 million at the same time in 2011, Cook told analysts during a January conference call.

Roku will only say it expects to sell the five millionth device in its history by the end of this month. The company, which is based in Saratoga, California, said its annual revenue was about \$150 million in 2011. Management declined to provide a revenue figure for last year.

Apple's revenue topped \$156 billion during its last fiscal year ending in September, with most of the sales rolling in from its line-up of iPhones, iPods, iPads and Mac computers. Company co-founder Steve Jobs considered Apple TV to be a "hobby," a description that Cook has echoed. Before he died in October 2011, Jobs told his biographer Walter Isaacson that he had finally figured out how to build a TV that "would be seamlessly synced with all of your devices." □

Tips to help with digital de-clutter

JENNIFER FORKER

Associated Press

Ask friends how many emails they have sitting in their inbox or how many photos are saved to their laptop, and don't be surprised if the numbers tally in the thousands.

Some of us have a difficult time knowing how to organize all of this digital information, from emails and documents to uploaded photos and downloaded songs. We hoard because we can: Today's computer memory can handle it, and our email providers

offer seemingly infinite storage space.

Take Peggy Stempson, associate pastor at Pierre First United Methodist Church in Pierre, South Dakota, who hangs onto at least 4,000 emails, many of them part of long conversations with friends going back five years or more.

"They spark memories, and connect me with people and help me contact them," says Stempson, 30. "It's kind of like a diary."

All of this digital detritus is not a problem unless it interferes with your life, work

or happiness, according to Tim Kasser, a psychology professor at Knox College, in Galesburg, Illinois.

"If this acquisition of 'e' stuff ends up leading to a lifestyle that forces you to have less time for your family, or less time to draw or play music or run around in a park, or less time to be involved in your community, then I would say that to me is a problem," says Kasser. "I can see how that happens with electronic stuff." Thank goodness there are experts to help extend spring cleaning to the digi-

tal realm.

Start the de-cluttering process slowly, advises Danielle Claro, editor-at-large at "Real Simple" magazine. "If you're intimidated by it, you need someone to hold your hand — either a friend or a teenager," she says, noting that she'd probably enlist her own teen.

Allison Carter of Atlanta gets paid to help people find their way through the digital morass. She helps clients streamline emails, organize finances, manage documents and photos, and back it all up.

"The digital world, it's about finding things, making your life more efficient, enjoying things, rather than having them only live in the darkness of your hard drive," says Carter, whose business is called Digital Life Organizing.

Controlling the email torrent is often the most daunting challenge, she says.

"I like my active to-do's and ongoing projects to be in my inbox until I've tackled them," says Carter, but that's all that should be there. □

Private survey shows steady job gains in February

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A private survey shows U.S. businesses added a solid number of jobs in February, indicating higher taxes and looming government spending cuts have yet to slow hiring.

Employers added 198,000 jobs in February, according to data released Wednesday by payroll processor ADP. And the survey revised January's hiring figures to show companies added 215,000 jobs that month, 23,000 more than what had initially been reported. The figure suggests that the government's February jobs report, to be issued Friday, may come in above economists' forecasts. Analysts expect it will show the economy added 152,000 jobs and the unemployment rate dipped

to 7.8 percent from 7.9 percent in January.

Joseph LaVorgna, chief U.S. economist at Deutsche Bank, boosted his forecast to 180,000 jobs, up from 125,000, in response to the ADP report.

Still, other economists remained cautious. Many think huge snowstorm that shut down several northeastern states last month may drag on overall job gains. The ADP report is derived from actual payroll data and tracks total non-farm private employment each month. It doesn't include government jobs, which have steadily declined for the past three years. In the past four months, ADP's data has diverged from the government's estimate of private sector jobs by about 30,000.

Still, February's ADP report

shows private employers kept adding jobs in February, even after taxes



A woman fills a job application at a job fair in Sunrise, Fla.
(AP Photo/J Pat Carter)

increased and the government moved closer to across-the-board spending cuts.

"Despite the ongoing fiscal uncertainty and the payroll tax hike, the recovery is picking up momentum," Paul Ashworth, an econo-

mist at Capital Economics, said in a note to clients.

Social Security taxes rose 2 percentage points Jan. 1 as part of a deal between the White House and Congress to avert larger tax increases. And about \$85 billion in spending cuts took effect March 1, which economists expect will lower growth in the summer and fall.

Even so, hiring was broad-based in February across most industries and business sizes.

Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics, said one encouraging sign is that small businesses are starting to hire more. Earlier in the economic recovery, which began in June 2009, larger companies with 500 or more employees did most of the hiring. Moody's helps compile the report with ADP. □

Exxon Mobil predicts lower output in 2013

DAVID KOENIG

AP Business Writer

DALLAS (AP) — Exxon Mobil Corp. expects production to decline by about 1 percent this year due to weaker output of natural gas, then rise in the next few years as new projects start up.

The oil and gas giant expects annual production to rise by 2 percent to 3 percent per year through 2017. It plans to spend \$190 billion on exploration and development over the next five years.

The company gave the forecast Wednesday at its annual meeting with analysts in New York.

Exxon Mobil's production fell 6 percent last year, but the company still earned \$44.9 billion, barely missing its own 2008 record, thanks to higher refining margins.

Analysts have raised concern about Exxon's falling production and the higher costs of extracting hard-to-reach oil and gas.

CEO Rex Tillerson said that 2012 production fell short of the company's expectations because of "operational performance issues" at some facilities, lower prices and lower spending in Iraq.

Tillerson said output would rise after 2013 as Exxon starts production at 22 major projects over the next three years, including expanding the Kearl oil sands operation in Alberta, Canada, and exploration in the Russian Arctic. He said most of the increase will come from oil production.

Most of the new projects are tilted toward oil rather than gas. Natural gas prices in North America have been low for several years as drilling techniques allow companies to extract gas that was once beyond their reach. Exxon has been the biggest U.S. producer of natural gas since buying XTO Energy in 2010. Tillerson said that advances in exploration and drilling technology have reduced costs and made once-untenable operations attractive. □

Nasdaq, SharesPost plan private stock market

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nasdaq OMX Group Inc. said Wednesday it will partner with private stock exchange SharesPost to develop a new market for unlisted companies. The new venture will offer early investors, founders and employees of private companies a platform to buy and sell company shares. The so-called Nasdaq Private Market will be based in San Francisco and led by SharesPost founder Greg

Brogger. Nasdaq will own most of the new exchange. "By combining our resources, expertise and reach with SharesPost's established technology, we will bring scale, efficiency and transparency to this marketplace," Nasdaq Executive Vice President Bruce Aust said in a statement. The exchange is expected to launch later this year, following regulatory approvals.

The collaboration could

help both companies shore up their reputations after recent stumbles.

Nasdaq was heavily criticized by investors for technical problems in its handling of Facebook's initial public offering last May. The exchange later agreed to hand out \$40 million in cash and credit to reimburse investment firms that got ensnared by the glitches.

SharesPost has benefited from increasing interest in trading companies that

have not yet gone public, handling early shares of Facebook, LinkedIn and other tech firms. However, the company has come under scrutiny from regulators investigating the market for private shares.

Last year the Securities and Exchange Commission charged SharesPost with failing to register as a securities brokerage. The company settled the charges for \$100,000 and has since registered itself. □

Dell board defends \$24.4B sale as safest option

MICHAEL LIETKE

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The committee of Dell board members that oversaw the negotiations to sell the slumping personal computer maker for \$24.4 billion is standing behind the deal despite the misgivings of major shareholders who believe CEO Michael Dell and other investors buying the company are getting a bargain.

In a four-paragraph statement released Wednesday, the four Dell directors on the committee pro-

vided their most extensive defense of the deal since it was announced a month ago.

Although much of the information contained in the statement had already been disclosed, the directors' decision to publicly reiterate their rationale for agreeing to the deal currently on the table shows they aren't having any second thoughts even as the company's largest independent shareholder prepares to lead a possible shareholder.

Southeastern Asset Man-

agement, which owns an 8.4 percent stake in Dell Inc., has demanded the names of other shareholders. That information could be used to rally opposition to the deal. T. Rowe Price, which owns a nearly 5 percent stake in Dell, also is lobbying against the deal. Dell's special committee said it went through a "rigorous" five-month review before accepting an offer to sell the company to founder Michael Dell and a group of investors led by Silver Lake for \$13.65 per share. Although that's

about \$10-per-share below where the stock stood when Michael Dell returned for a second stint as CEO in 2007, it's 37 percent above the shares' average trading price during the 90-day period before word of the buyout negotiations leaked out in mid-January. Southeastern contends Dell is worth nearly \$24 per share.

If the second-guessing about the proposed sale of Dell continues to mount, the spotlight on the board's special committee is likely to intensify. □

US stocks edge up following Dow's record day

MATTHEW CRAFT
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — After barreling through a record the day before, the Dow Jones industrial average meandered higher on Wednesday.

The Dow edged up 42.47 points, or 0.3 percent, to close at 14,296.24. An encouraging job-market report helped nudge the stock market up and pushed bond prices lower. On Tuesday, the Dow blew past the previous all-time high it hit more than five years ago. The index of 30 big corporations has more than doubled since hitting a low during the financial crisis in March 2009.

The question now is, how much longer can it keep climbing?

In the past, stock indexes have often drifted lower in the months after breaking

through previous record highs. David Brown, director of Sabrient Systems, an investment research firm, sees plenty of reasons for the market to keep climbing, however. People are putting their cash into the stock market again. And the alternatives, like bonds, are hardly appealing.

"There is literally nowhere else to go," Brown said. "Do you really want to make 1.9 percent on a 10-year Treasury? You won't make any money doing that."

In other trading, the Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 1.67 points, or 0.1 percent, to 1,541.46. The Nasdaq slipped 1.77, less than 0.1 percent, to 3,222.36.

Microsoft led a decline in tech stocks, losing 26 cents to \$28.09. European regulators fined the company for breaking an anti-

trust agreement requiring the software giant to offer computer users a choice of Internet browsers, instead of just Internet Explorer.

ers added 23,000 more jobs in January than first reported.

The ADP survey suggests that government spending



Specialist Christian Sanfillippo, right, smiles as he works at his post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. The Dow's new all-time high and better economic data from the United States propelled world stock markets higher Wednesday March 6, 2013.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

Companies added 198,000 U.S. workers to their payrolls in February, according to payment processor ADP. The firm also said employ-

cuts have yet to deter employers from hiring. Investors look to the ADP survey as a preview to the closely watched Labor Depart-

ment report, which comes out Friday. Economists expect the government to say employers added 152,000 jobs in February, lowering the unemployment rate to 7.8 percent from 7.9 percent.

As traders anticipated better news about the job market, bond prices fell and the yield on the 10-year Treasury rose to 1.93 percent from 1.90 percent late Tuesday.

Expectations of a stronger economy tend to lure traders out of Treasuries and into investments that tend to rise with economic growth, like stocks. Over the long haul, stock markets head higher, but the path is rarely smooth. In October 2007, the Dow hit its previous high of 14,164. A year later, the country was in the middle of a financial crisis and the Dow was in free fall. □

Former GM executive tapped for rival Toyota board

YURI KAGEYAMA
AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Toyota has tapped a former executive at U.S. rival General Motors to join its board, the first time in the Japanese automaker's 76-year history it is appointing directors from outside the company.

The appointment of Mark Hogan, effective April 1, underlines efforts at Toyota Motor Corp. to become more internationally minded, transparent and nimble

in regional markets as it recovers from difficult years, including a massive recall fiasco in the U.S.

Under changes announced Wednesday by President Akio Toyoda, Toyota will set up a new division to oversee North American, European and Japanese markets and another for emerging markets.

The world's biggest automaker also promoted four non-Japanese managers to oversee regional busi-

nesses, including James Lentz, an American who already leads Toyota Motor Sales in the U.S. He will head the North American region.

Like other conservative Japanese companies, Toyota has been far more insular than its Western counterparts, and had been closed in the past to the idea of board members from outside company ranks.

The changes reflect soul-

searching at the company following massive global recalls over sticky gas pedals, faulty floor mats, problematic brakes and other defects that spanned several years from 2009 and affected more than 14 million vehicles — some models being recalled repeatedly.

The recalls tarnished Toyota's reputation for quality and raised questions about its ability to respond to problems that crop up in its

rapidly expanding global empire, and to reassure international authorities and customers of its trustworthiness and transparency.

Besides Hogan, two Japanese, from the insurance and securities industries, were picked as outside board members. They are Ikuo Uno, an executive advisor at Nippon Life Insurance Co., and Haruhiko Kato, president of the Japan Securities Depository Center. □

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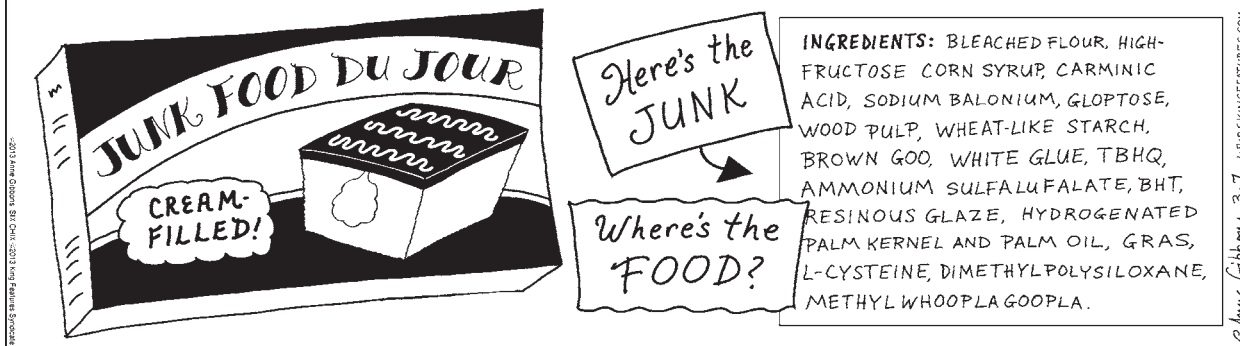
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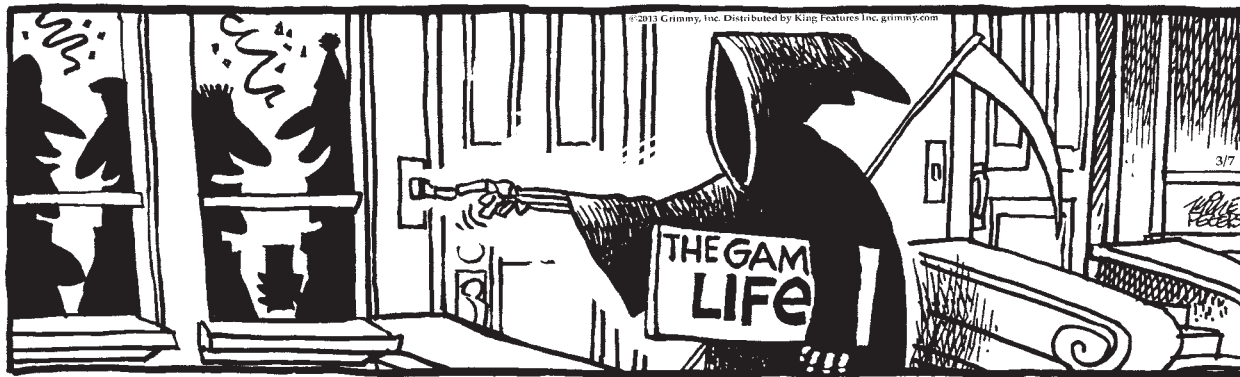
6 Chix



Blondie



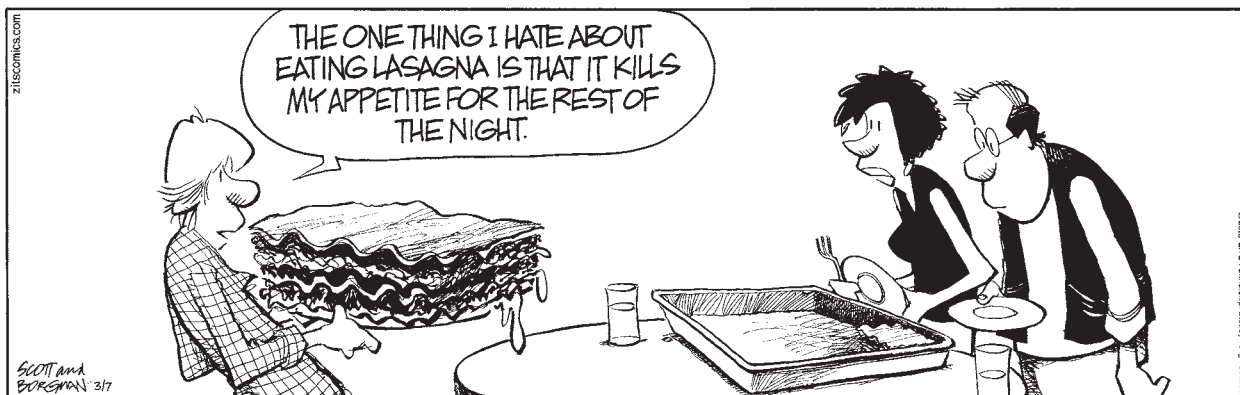
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

5	1	9						
4					3			
3				7				
			3	6			2	
		8	1		5	9		
	6			8	7			
				9				4
			2					5
						7	9	6

Difficulty Level ★★

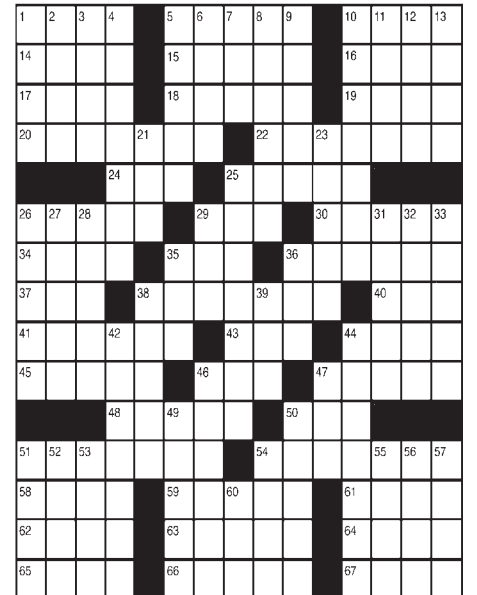
3/07

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

4	8	6	1	5	9	2	3	7
7	5	2	6	3	4	9	1	8
9	1	3	2	7	8	4	6	5
5	6	4	9	2	7	1	8	3
8	9	7	3	4	1	5	2	6
2	3	1	8	6	5	7	4	9
1	2	5	7	8	6	3	9	4
3	4	8	5	9	2	6	7	1
6	7	9	4	1	3	8	5	2

ACROSS

- 1 Bluefin or albacore
- 5 African nation
- 10 School subj.
- 14 Frank; candid
- 15 Equestrian
- 16 Internal spy
- 17 Having mixed feelings
- 18 Venerate
- 19 ___ if; albeit
- 20 Sign
- 22 Hobo
- 24 High-pitched bark
- 25 Money south of the border
- 26 Flock members
- 29 Public transport
- 30 Meanders
- 34 Actress
- 35 Tuesday
- 36 Writing implement
- 37 Ring king, once
- 38 Altered to fit
- 40 Yoko ___
- 41 Tin and copper
- 43 Morsel in a feed bag
- 44 Journey
- 45 Bumbling
- 46 Deadly viper
- 47 Parsonage
- 48 Memory ___
- 50 Go up & down
- 51 Put in danger
- 54 Renters
- 58 Primary
- 59 Just beginning to learn
- 61 Dinner course
- 62 Tap a golf ball
- 63 Rips
- 64 Castro's land
- 65 Kill
- 66 Aerosol
- 67 Small bills



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

3/7/13

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

HUG	LEADS	FROM
ISLE	ONSET	IOWA
PEEL	CAINE	ELLS
REEDUCATE	LESS	
VEST	PAD	
ASLAN	STETSONS	
UNITY	BOISE	PAT
DANE	PLANT	BEVY
IRE	ERUPT	PANEL
OLDGLORY	HASSLE	
RIB	DOPE	
TOGO	AMBULANCE	
AVOW	BOUND	JETS
MEAL	LANCER	INCH
ENDS	ENTER	THE

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3/7/13

DOWN

- 1 Carry
- 2 Come ___; find
- 3 Bookish fellow
- 4 Pestered
- 5 Clutch

- 6 Animal pelt
- 7 "Much ___ About Nothing"
- 8 Anxiety
- 9 Zones
- 10 Ralph Waldo
- 11 ___ Scotia
- 12 Secluded valley
- 13 Loaned
- 21 Van Winkle of fiction
- 23 Punctured
- 25 On ___; intentionally
- 26 Hindu teacher
- 27 Hayes or Hunt
- 28 Upper class
- 29 Feminine undergarment
- 31 ___ squash; winter veggie
- 32 Skimpy skirts
- 33 Skier's incline
- 35 Sullivan and Bradley
- 36 Guinea pig or Great Dane
- 38 Church table

- 39 Touch lightly
- 42 Galore
- 44 Hot sauce
- 46 Slumbering
- 47 Day of the wk.
- 49 Half-quarts
- 50 Flag-maker
- 51 Little rascals

- 52 Treat roughly
- 53 Middle East bread
- 54 Skater Lipinski
- 55 Part of speech
- 56 Toothpaste container
- 57 Jacuzzis
- 60 Armed conflict

Classifieds

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199015

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199003

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199004

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Tropicana week 8

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198746

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198537

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DOCTOR ON DUTY

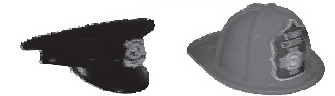


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Curiosity sleeps as solar blast races toward Mars

By ALICIA CHANG

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Curiosity hunkered down Wednesday after the sun unleashed a blast that raced toward Mars.

While the hardy rover was designed to withstand punishing space weather, its handlers decided to power it down as a precaution since it suffered a recent computer problem. "We're being more careful," said project manager Richard Cook of the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, which runs the \$2.5 billion mission.

While Curiosity slept, the Opportunity rover and two NASA spacecraft circling overhead carried on with normal activities.

On Tuesday, scientists noticed a huge flare erupting from the sun that hurled a stream of radiation in Mars' direction. The solar burst also spawned a cloud of superheated gas that barreled toward the red plan-

et at 2 million mph.

The eruption did not appear severe or extreme, but "middle of the road,

The solar tempest was not expected to have an impact on Earth. In the past, such outbursts have trig-

duce shimmering auroras in places farther from the poles. Since Mars lacks a planet-wide magnetic

field, it does not experience geomagnetic storms. Rather, the planet sees a spike in radiation, Rutledge said. Powerful solar blasts can cause trouble to Mars spacecraft. In 2003, an intense solar flare knocked out the radiation detector on the Odyssey orbiter.

NASA does not expect similar drama from the latest solar activity. In the worst-

case scenario, one or more of the working Mars spacecraft may enter "safe mode" in which science activities are halted

but they remain in contact with Earth. "We'll be watching and seeing what happens," said Roger Gibbs, JPL deputy manager for the Mars exploration program. The unsettled space weather comes as Curiosity is recovering from a memory hiccup that put its science experiments on hold. It was the first major problem to hit the car-size since landing in an ancient crater near the Martian equator last year to hunt for the chemical building blocks of life.

Engineers were in the middle of troubleshooting when they decided to wait for the weather to pass. The delay means it'll take longer for Curiosity to return to analyzing the pinch of rock powder from a recent drilling.

Since its instruments are turned off, it can't use its radiation sensor to track the solar particles.

"It's just bad timing," Cook said. □



This image provided by NASA shows an image captured by NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory of a blast of plasma streaming from the sun in August 2012.

Associated Press

all things considered" said space weather chief Bob Rutledge at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

gered solar storms with the ability to disrupt utility grids, airline flights, satellite networks and GPS services. They're also known to pro-

Physicists on Higgs hunt: Nearly there but not yet

SETH BORENSTEIN

AP Science Writer

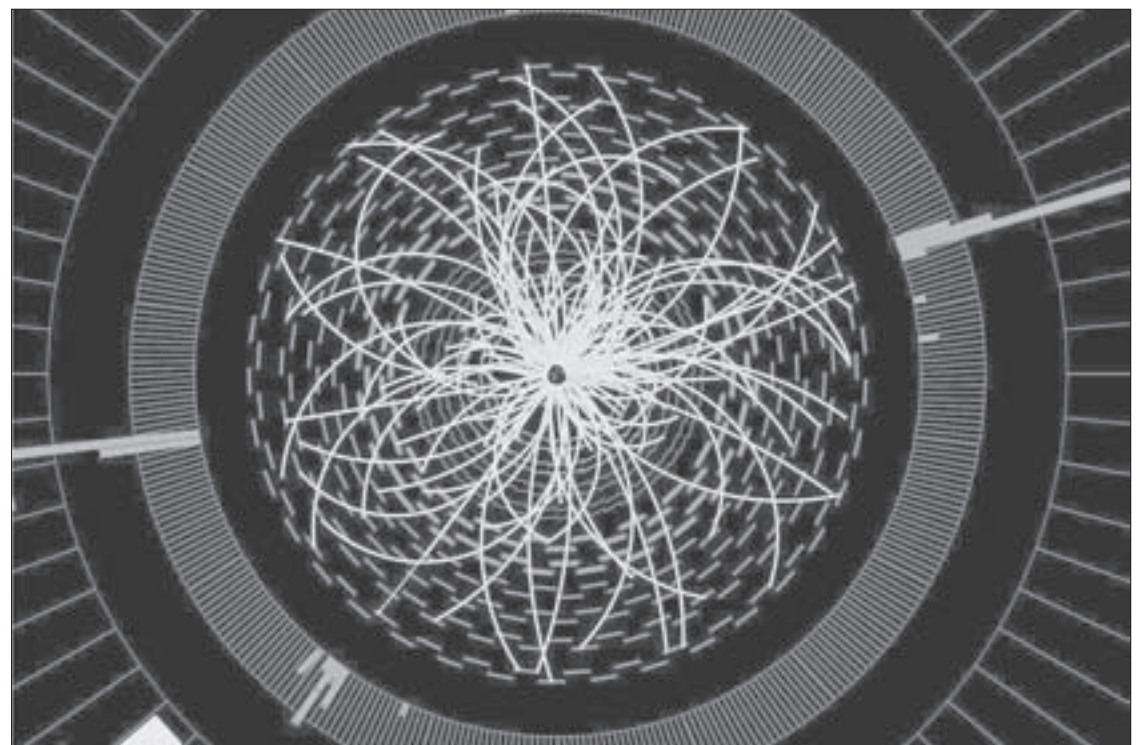
WASHINGTON (AP) — Physicists in Italy said Wednesday they are aching close to concluding that what they found last year was the Higgs boson, the elusive "God particle." They need to eliminate one last remote possibility that it's something else.

The long theorized subatomic particle would explain why matter has mass and has been called a missing cornerstone of physics.

With new analyses, scientists are 99.6 percent certain they found the crucial Higgs boson. But they want

to be 99.9 percent positive, said Pauline Gagnon, a physicist with the European Center for Nuclear Research.

Last July scientists with the world's largest atom smasher, the \$10 billion Large Hadron Collider on the Swiss-French border, announced finding a particle they described as Higgs-like, but wouldn't say it was conclusively the particle. Now thousands of checks show them even closer. "It looks more and more like a Higgs boson," said Gagnon after an update presented Wednesday at a conference in the Italian Alps.



This 2011 image provide by CERN, shows a real CMS proton-proton collision in which four high energy electrons (green lines and red towers) are observed in a 2011 event.

Associated Press

Physicist Sean Carroll of the California Institute of Technology, who isn't involved in the research, said scientists are just being careful, covering all bases.

Without the Higgs boson to explain why electrons and matter have mass, Carroll said, "there would be no atoms, there would be no chemistry, there would be no life, so that's kind of important." □

Gagnon compared finding the Higgs to identifying a specific person. This looks, talks, and sings like a Higgs, but scientists want to make sure it dances like the Higgs before they shout "Eureka."

She said there is only one last thing the particle they found could also be: a graviton. That's another subatomic particle associated with gravitational

fields, not mass.

By checking the spin of the particle, scientists will be able to tell if it is a Higgs boson, which is far more likely, or a graviton. If it has no internal spin, it's the Higgs boson; if it has a lot of spin it's a graviton.

Wednesday's presentation was by one team of researchers and another team will present more findings next week.

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Report: TV star Valerie Harper has brain cancer

FRAZIER MOORE
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Valerie Harper, who played Rhoda Morgenstern on television's "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" and its spinoff, "Rhoda," has been diagnosed with terminal brain cancer. People magazine reported on its website Wednesday that the 73-year-old actress received the news on Jan. 15. Tests revealed she has leptomeningeal carcinomatosis, a rare condition that occurs when cancer cells spread into the fluid-filled membrane surrounding the brain. The report says Harper's doctors have said she has as little as three months to live. "I don't think of dying," Harper told the magazine in a cover interview. "I think of being here now." Harper's character, Rhoda, was one of television's most beloved characters during the 1970s, and the tart-tongued, self-deprecating Rhoda made Harper a star. She won three consecutive Emmys (1971-73) as supporting actress on "Mary" plus another for outstanding lead actress for "Rhoda," which ran from 1974-78. Harper began show business as a dancer in several Broadway musicals, and worked



In this June 13, 2010 photo, Valerie Harper arrives at the 61st Annual Tony Awards in New York.

Associated Press in summer stock and with the Second City improv group. "I was a dancer but I was always a little overweight," she once told The Associated Press. "I'd say, 'Hello, I'm Valerie Harper and I'm overweight.' I'd say it quickly before they could. ... I always got called chubby, my nose was too wide, my hair was too kinky." Accordingly, she played Rhoda at first as a plump, wisecracking contrast to slender, winsome Mary Richards. But as "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" evolved, Rhoda trimmed down and her own brand of beauty was acknowledged. The character was wildly popular and soon inspired her own CBS sitcom, which saw Rhoda moving back home to New York City and even getting mar-

ried. After her success on TV, she returned to theater. Several TV movie and feature films followed, including "Chapter Two" and "Blame It on Rio." In 2000, she reunited with Moore in a TV film, "Mary and Rhoda." "Rhoda Morgenstern gave a wonderful impetus and propulsion to my career," she told the AP in 2001. At the time, she had stepped into the role originated by former "Alice" star Linda Lavin in the Broadway comedy "The Tale of the Allergist's Wife." Harper played what she described as "an angst-ridden Woman of a Certain Age," and she likened that character to Rhoda, whose shared creed, she said, is "Get into life, and enjoy it. Just stop with the white knuckles and relax. Be OK with yourself." In recent years, Harper had guest roles on several TV series, and in 2010 was back on Broadway playing Tallulah Bankhead, a flamboyant star from Hollywood's Golden Age. AP Drama Critic Michael Kuchwara wrote that "Harper submerges the iconic Rhoda Morgenstern" and "has a ferocious sense of comic timing." In January, Harper published a new memoir, "I, Rhoda." □

Sam Mendes says no to next James Bond film



In this Thursday, Nov. 3, 2011 file photo, film director Sam Mendes and actors Dame Judi Dench and Daniel Craig pose for a photo call for the new James Bond film "Skyfall" at a central London restaurant.

LONDON (AP) — Never say never again? Sam Mendes says he won't be directing the next James Bond film — but may work on the series again in the future. Mendes has been praised for his work on "Skyfall," the first Bond film to rake in more than \$1 billion in revenue. But Mendes says he has made the "very difficult decision" to focus on other projects "that need my complete focus over the next year and beyond." They include upcoming London stage productions of "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" and "King

Lear." In comments published Wednesday by movie magazine Empire, Mendes said he was honored to have been part of the Bond family, "and very much hope I have a chance to work with them again." Mendes worked in theater before turning to film. He won an Academy Award in 2000 for "American Beauty." "Skyfall," which stars Daniel Craig, Javier Bardem and Judi Dench, won two Oscars last month, including one for Adele's theme song. □

Marvel goes dystopian with 'Age of Ultron' title

MATT MOORE
Associated Press

Marvel Entertainment's renowned heroes find themselves in an unfamiliar and unsettling position in the pages of the just-released "Age of Ultron" series: defeated, demoralized and desperate. After years of well-placed warnings that have gone unheeded, the ever-adaptive artificial intelligence that is Ultron — a creation of Avengers co-founder Henry Pym — has finally realized his potential as conquering villain. He has turned the planet into a dystopian landscape that is wrecked beyond compare with technology at the top of the food chain

and humanity on the extinction trail. In short, said Brian Michael Bendis, who wrote the series that debuted Wednesday, Ultron has lived up to his promise. "Ultron is one of the big villains of the Marvel universe, up there with Dr. Doom and Magneto," he said this week. "He's been a threat — a constant threat — and they've never been able to defeat him because of the nature of his being." Now, with Ultron's ability to adapt, react and learn, his promise has gone global and what was once a vibrant planet is nothing more than piles of debris with androids and mechanized robots running rough-

shod across the surface and heroes like Iron Man, the Sensational Spider-Man, Moon Knight, Invisible Woman and Hawkeye in the shadows. It is, Bendis said, a reckoning of sorts with the Marvel universe "destroyed" and "half the heroes dead and half the world is dead." Those that are left — remnants of the Avengers, the X-Men, the Fantastic Four, the Hulks — are living in the shadows, fighting back, Bendis said, and they aim to stop what happened from ever happening again. "It's not an imaginary story. It's happening in Marvel continuity," he said of the tale, which has the first three issues out this



This comic book cover image released by Marvel shows "Age of Ultron," Book One.

Associated Press

month, followed by issues 4, 5 and 6 in April, all illustrated by Bryan Hitch. The

heroes "are going to break some rules with the space-time continuum." The 10-issue story is illustrated by Hitch, Brandon Petersen and Carlos Pacheco, with a fourth artist that Marvel is keeping secret. Tom Brevoort, senior vice president for publishing at Marvel and editor for "Age of Ultron," called the series one that will leave readers confused and, possibly, upset, too. "Part of the ethos we're trying to adopt, as part of Marvel Now, is the idea that really, anything can happen and the sky is the limit," he said. "'Age of Ultron' is the exemplar of that. It's supposed to make people feel edgy and uncomfortable." □

Adele shopped here: Vintage shop gets TV series



In this photo taken Thursday, Feb. 21, 2013, owner Doris Raymond poses for a photo at her Hollywood high-end vintage store, "The Way We Wore," in the La Brea District of Los Angeles.

LYNN ELBER,
AP Television Writer
LOS ANGELES (AP) — When

Adele wants to make a vintage fashion statement, stylist Gaelle Paul has a go-to source: the cleverly named The Way We Wore shop. Now TV viewers can peek inside Los Angeles store owner Doris Raymond's 19th- and 20th-century collection that's lured shoppers Anne Hathaway, Katie Holmes and Angelina Jolie, as well as top designers searching for inspiration from the past.

"L.A. Frock Stars," a Smithsonian Channel series debuting Thursday, is both a fashionista's delight and a chance to see passion at work with Raymond, who's made finding and selling great old clothes a quest for more than 30 years.

"The show is about spreading the gospel of vintage," said Raymond — which translates, for example, to a 1940s jacket with tailoring and fabric that would cost \$1,500 to replicate today but can be had for less than \$200.

The Way We Wore is a popular resource for film and TV productions, including "Titanic," "Casino," "Boardwalk Empire" and "Mad Men."

Raymond's tidy but full shop also has racks of impressive

labels including Chanel, Versace, Halston and Gucci and the stuff of fashion history, like the first version of the Diane Von Furstenberg wrap dress that launched the designer's career.

"It's not like going to a thrift shop. This is a high-end, fully curated vintage clothing store. It's really picky," said Raymond, who sees her stylish inventory as both art and a link to social history. The far-from-ordinary garments are what draw stylist Paul and her client Adele, who came in recently on a scouting expedition.

The shop has "designers that I don't know where else I would find them," Paul said, such as James Galanos. "It's just great you can get those designers and their really strong pieces. It's not the average 1950s dress you find in vintage stores."

A recent day saw actress Samantha Mathis escorted upstairs, while a first-time shopper who wandered in for a party frock was downstairs admiring, wide-eyed, a 1926 hand-beaded French cotton tulle gown for about \$3,000.

"When I'm going to get married, I'll take a vintage dress," said Russian-born Anna Ovdienko.

Museum-quality garments

from couture houses and older, unlabeled ethnic designs are safely tucked in Raymond's back office. John Galliano and Alexander McQueen are among those who have dropped in to shop. Designers from J. Crew and other retail chains have done the same. The six-episode series includes visits to The Way We Wore by celebrities including burlesque artist Dita von Teese and actress Debi Mazar ("Entourage"). A singer-songwriter, Alexandra Starlight, preparing for a showcase performance at South by Southwest, is tickled to learn that one of glittery outfits she's trying is by Fabrice Simon, who costumed Tina Turner. On-screen pop-ups give viewers a bit of history about the Haitian-born Simon and other designers mentioned on the show, part of Raymond's mission to enlighten as well as buy and sell. She scours estate sales, vintage auctions and more for potential finds..

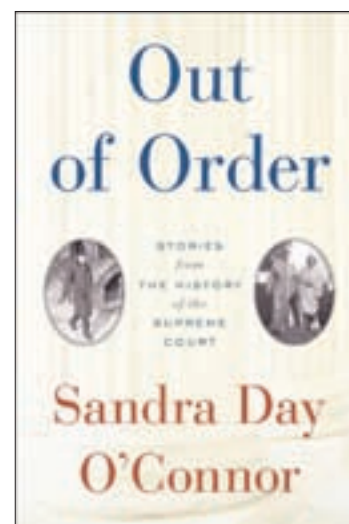
Raymond, who discovered second-hand clothes as a teenager when her family fell on hard times, is part of a vintage mini-wave on TV that includes Bravo's new "Dukes of Melrose," featuring the owners of LA's Melrose Avenue boutique Decades. □

Former justice pens history book about the Supreme Court

RASHA MADKOUR
Associated Press

In the old days, lawyers arguing before the Supreme Court could blather on, uninterrupted, for as long as 10 days. Nowadays, they're strictly limited to 30 minutes of argument time — and they're deemed lucky if they can speak more than two sen-

alities in the history of the court, from John McLean, who ran unsuccessfully for president four times while serving on the court, to Byron White, who played professional football for the Pittsburgh Pirates (now Steelers) and Detroit Lions before being appointed to the bench. (He was also a Rhodes scholar and served in the Navy.) The dubious designation as one of the worst justices ever falls on James McReynolds, who wrote comments like "This makes me sick" on colleagues' circulating opinions. A self-professed anti-Semite, McReynolds read a newspaper during a Jewish colleague's swearing-in ceremony, and at his funeral in 1946, not a single fellow justice was in attendance. O'Connor offers a few juicy tidbits about life as a Supreme Court justice. She writes that each newly appointed justice is "permitted" to sit in the historic chair used by Chief Justice John Marshall. (Justice Sonia Sotomayor said she felt as if history were "coursing through" her when she sat on it.) Just before taking the bench during oral arguments, the justices gather in the robing room and partake in a "judicial handshake," with each justice shaking the hand and greeting every other justice. After morning arguments wrap up, the justices have lunch together — and no work talk is allowed. "Out of Order" is, at its core, a compact history book on the Supreme Court — albeit a more lighthearted, personality-filled one than you might find in a high school classroom. O'Connor may have overestimated people's interest in reading about every person nominated to the court, and she doesn't reveal nearly as much behind-the-scenes information as did Jeffrey Toobin in his excellent book "The Nine." But "Out of Order" is a solid addition to the library of layman books about the court. □



This book cover image released by Random House shows "Out of Order: Stories from the History of the Supreme Court," by Sandra Day O'Connor.

Associated Press

tences before the justices interject. The first chief justice, John Jay, resigned to become governor of New York. He didn't think the Supreme Court would amount to much.

And until Chief Justice William Howard Taft, a former president, lobbied for a Supreme Court building, the nation's highest court shared office space over the years with merchants, lower courts and Congress. For an institution so seemingly steeped in tradition, the nature of the Supreme Court has changed and evolved drastically over its lifetime. That's the main takeaway from a new book by former Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, the first woman appointed to the job. "Out of Order: Stories From the History of the Supreme Court" is readable, accessible and full of riveting anecdotes, even if the level of detail may occasionally bore the casual reader. O'Connor skillfully highlights myriad person-

The Brutality Cascade



DAVID BROOKS
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Let's say you were a power hitter during baseball's steroids era. You may have objected to steroids on moral and health grounds. But many of your competitors were using them, so you faced enormous pressure to use them too.

Let's say you are a student at a good high school. You may want to have a normal adolescence. But you are surrounded by all these junior workaholics who have been preparing for the college admissions racket since they were 6. You find you can't unilaterally withdraw from the rat race and still get into the college of your choice. So you also face enormous pressure to behave in a way you detest.

You might call these situations brutality cascades. In certain sorts of competitions, the most brutal player gets to set the rules. Everybody else feels pressure to imitate, whether they want to or not.

The political world is rife with brutality cascades. Let's say you are a normal person who gets into Congress. You'd rather not spend all your time fundraising. You'd like to be civil to your opponents and maybe even work out compromises.

But you find yourself competing against opponents who fundraise all the time, who prefer brutality to civility and absolutism to compromise. Soon you must follow their norms to survive.

Or take a case in world affairs. The United States is a traditional capitalist nation that has championed an open-seas economic doctrine. We think everybody benefits if global economics is like a conversation, with maximum openness, mutual trust and free exchange. But along comes China, an economic superpower with a more mercantilist mindset. Many Chinese, at least in the military-industrial complex, see global economics as a form of warfare, a struggle for national dominance.

Americans and Europeans tend to think it is self-defeating to engage in cyberattacks on private companies in a foreign country. You may learn something, but you destroy the trust that lubricates free exchange. Pretty soon your trade dries up because nobody wants to do business with a pirate. Investors go off in search of more transparent partners.

But China's cybermercantilists regard deceit as a natural tool of warfare. Cyberattacks make

perfect sense. Your competitors have worked hard to acquire intellectual property. Your system is more closed so innovation is not your competitive advantage. It is quicker and cheaper to steal. They will hate you for it, but who cares? They were going to hate you anyway. C'est la guerre.

In a brutality cascade the Chinese don't become more like us as the competition continues. We become more like them. And that is indeed what's happening. The first thing Western companies do in response to cyberattacks is build up walls. Instead of being open stalls in the global marketplace, they begin to look more like opaque, rigidified castles.

Next, the lines between private companies and Western governments begin to blur. When Western companies are attacked, they immediately turn to their national governments for technical and political support. On the one hand, the U.S. military is getting a lot more involved in computer counterespionage, eroding the distance between the military and private companies. On the other hand, you see the rise of these digital Blackwaters, private security firms that behave like information age armies, providing defense against foreign attack but also counterattacking against Chinese and Russian foes.

Pretty soon the global economy looks less like Monopoly and more like a game of Risk, with a Chinese military-industrial complex on one part of the board and the Western military-industrial complex on another part. Brutality cascades are very hard to get out of. You can declare war and simply try to crush the people you think are despoiling the competition.

Or you can try what might be called friendship circles. In this approach, you first establish the norms of legitimacy that should govern the competition. You create a Geneva Convention of domestic political conduct or global cyberespionage. Then you organize as broad a coalition as possible to uphold these norms.

Finally, you isolate the remaining violators and deliver a message: If you join our friendship circle and abide by our norms, the benefits will be overwhelming, but if you stay outside, the costs will be devastating.

In his effort to fight what he regards as Republican zealots, President Barack Obama is caught between these two strategies. He never quite pushes budget showdowns to the limit to discredit Republicans, but he never offers enough to the members of the Republican common-sense caucus to tempt them to break ranks.

Clearly the second option is better for dealing with the Chinese. Establish a Geneva Convention that bans cyberactivity against citizens and private companies. Establish a broad coalition to enforce it. Unfortunately, standard-setting is a dying art these days, so we are living with these brutality cascades. □



A Scientist's Misguided Crusade



JOE NOCERA
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On Friday, at 3:40 p.m., the State Department released its "Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement" for the highly contentious Keystone XL pipeline, which Canada hopes to build to move its tar sands oil to refineries in the United States. In effect, the statement said there were no environmental impediments that would prevent President Barack Obama from approving the pipeline.

Two hours and 20 minutes later, I received a blast email containing a statement by James Hansen, the head of the Goddard Institute for Space Studies at NASA — i.e., NASA's chief climate scientist.

"Keystone XL, if the public were to allow our well-oiled government to shepherd it into existence, would be the first step down the wrong road, perpetuating our addiction to dirty fossil fuels, moving to ever dirtier ones," it began. After claiming that the carbon in the tar sands "exceeds that in all oil burned in human history," Hansen's statement concluded: "The public must demand that the government begin serving the public's interest, not the fossil fuel industry's interest."

As a private citizen, Hansen, 71, has the same First Amendment rights as everyone else. He can publicly oppose the Keystone XL

pipeline if he so chooses, just as he can be as politically active as he wants to be in the anti-Keystone movement, and even be arrested during protests, something he managed to do recently in front of the White House.

But the blast email didn't come from James Hansen, private citizen. It specifically identified Hansen as the head of the Goddard Institute and went on to describe him as someone who "has drawn attention to the danger of passing climate tipping points, producing irreversible climate impacts that would yield a different planet from the one on which civilization developed." All of which made me wonder whether such apocalyptic pronouncements were the sort of statements a government scientist should be making — and whether they were really helping the cause of reversing climate change.

Let's acknowledge right here that the morphing of scientists into activists is nothing new. Linus Pauling, the great chemist, was a peace activist who pushed hard for a nuclear test ban treaty. Albert Einstein also became a public opponent of nuclear weapons.

It is also important to acknowledge that Hansen has been a crucial figure in developing modern climate science. In 2009, Eileen Claussen, now the president of the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions, told *The New Yorker* that Hansen was a "heroic" scientist who "faced all kinds of pressures politically." Today, his body of work is one of the foundations upon which much climate science is built. Yet what people hear from Hansen today is not so much his science but his broad, unscientific views on, say, the evils of oil companies.

In 2008, he wrote a paper, the thesis of which was that runaway climate change would occur when carbon in the atmosphere reached 350 parts per million — a point it had already exceeded — unless it were quickly reduced.

There are many climate change experts who disagree with this judgment — who believe that the 350 number is arbitrary and even meaningless. Yet an entire movement, 350.org, has been built around Hansen's line in the sand.

Meanwhile, he has a department to run. For a midlevel scientist at the Goddard Institute, what signal is Hansen sending when he takes the day off to get arrested at the White House? Do his colleagues feel unfettered in their own work? There is, in fact, enormous resentment toward Hansen inside NASA, where many officials feel that their solid, analytical work on climate science is being lost in what many of them describe as "the Hansen sideshow."

His activism is not really doing any favors for the science his own subordinates are producing.

Finally, and most important, Hansen has placed all his credibility on one battle: the fight to persuade Obama to block the Keystone XL pipeline. It is the wrong place for him to make a stand. Even in the unlikely event the pipeline is stopped, the tar sands oil will still be extracted and shipped. It might be harder to do without a pipeline, but it is already happening. And in the grand scheme, as I've written before, the tar sands oil is not a game changer. The oil we import from Venezuela today is dirtier than that from the tar sands. Not that the anti-pipeline activists seem to care.

What is particularly depressing is that Hansen has some genuinely important ideas, starting with placing a graduated carbon tax on fossil fuels. Such a tax would undoubtedly do far more to reduce carbon emissions and save the planet than stopping the Keystone XL pipeline.

A carbon tax might be worth getting arrested over. But by allowing himself to be distracted by Keystone, Hansen is hurting the very cause he claims to care so much about. □



Models present creations by U.S. fashion designer Marc Jacobs for Louis Vuitton's Ready to Wear's Fall-Winter 2013-2014 fashion collection, presented, Wednesday, March 6, 2013 in Paris.

(AP Photo/Jacques Brinon)

Moss cameo at Vuitton hotel caps fashion week

THOMAS ADAMSON
AP Fashion Writer

PARIS (AP) — On the last day of Paris ready-to-wear shows, if Miuccia Prada was about fun and Elie Saab the familiar, then Louis Vuitton was about Kate Moss.

Marc Jacobs, Vuitton's creative director, delivered a no-expenses-spared production to cap fall-winter fashion season in five-star style.

The showman recreated an entire hotel floor inside the Louvre, replete with sprawling carpet, nostalgic lounge piano and do-not-disturb signs — what he called “decadent glamor.”

The glamor-factor was certainly there in the roll call of top actresses lining the front row, including Jessica Chastain, January Jones and Naomi Watts.

But somehow in just a two-minute cameo Moss — pos-



Top model Kate Moss and Jamie Hince, right, leave Louis Vuitton's Ready to Wear's Fall-Winter 2013-2014 fashion collection, Wednesday, March 6, 2013 in Paris.
(AP Photo/Zacharie Scheurer)

sibly the world's most famous model — managed to inspire an A-list front row and an entire hotel. The super-waif 39-year-old provoked instant applause as she appeared in a provocatively revealing

organza slip dress from behind one of the closed hotel doors, and was mobbed by journalists backstage. Trends this season included black and white with flashes of color, leather and fur, eighties and fifties silhouettes, and more lady-like styles with a combative edge.

LOUIS VUITTON

Louis Vuitton moved in a more feminine, sensual direction for fall-winter.

“It was about intimacy, the mystery of what's going on behind the door,” Jacobs said. “It's Hollywood mixed with rive gauche.”

Accordingly, models in '50s wigs slinked out of a dozen hotel doors wearing satin dresses resembling slips. A bathrobe made from a man's coat followed a crepe dress made with motifs of an undergarment. The numerous long fur coats — some of the most

luxurious seen this season — provided the glam-factor.

Mink coats dyed in two tones and murky-colored astrakhan were stand outs — as well as crocodile bags lined with sheared mink, lashings of marabou feathers and hand-curved goose feathers.

“All sorts of creatures were lying around in embroidered form,” joked Jacobs, who may indeed be responsible for emptying a local zoo.

Menswear touches like a button-less tailored jacket or the pajama print reined in the more overtly feminine lingerie looks, ensuring a nice overall balance.

But the show was also about Kate Moss.

Jacobs, who conducted interviews backstage in red pajamas, said the show grew from his close friendship with Moss, and years of dressing her up in

hotel rooms.

MIU MIU

Last season's boxy and printed looks were gone for Miu Miu's fall-winter 2013-14 show.

In their place was a more inventive collection that featured outerwear as dresses, large-sized buttons and giant handbags.

Flashes of color in '50s polka dot neckties, stripy tights and Belle Epoque boots in gold and silver gave the collection for Miuccia Prada's baby sister offshoot a great lift.

Dresses made with quilted coat fabric, sometimes with large buttons and long zippers, saw Prada putting her own quirky stamp on an outerwear-to-innerware trend that's on high rotation on the catwalk of late. The piece de resistance was a one-meter (three-foot) handbag that had spectators gawking. □